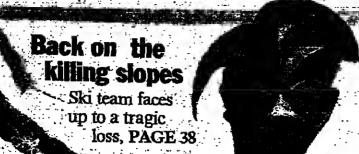
Feres and Polls

STEPHEN CONCU



Rediscovery of a Bacon

Is self-portrait the stuff of genius? PAGES 17 and 29

EDUCATION Why our universities

have been driven to a £300 levy PAGE 33



Valerie Grove

Thomas Quasthoff and a voice that drowns out disability **PAGE 14**

agreed to take special care to

ensure she does not have a

brief and fatal encounter with

in addition, to ensure IJ will

never be substituted for a less

valuable look-a-like she will

have an identifying microchip inserted under her skin.

solicitor, would not comment

on suggestions that JJ, known

After the agreement Mrs Webb, 48, said: "I am delight-

ed. These past few months

have been a nightmare. We

love JJ and she has bonded

Mrs Evans claimed she

would never have sold JJ to the couple d she had known that

they were unemployed as

keeping a pedigree dog costs

with BOOKS

hundreds of pounds a year.

our other red

Mrs Evans as F

valued at up to £10,000.

Dominic Kelly, Mrs Webb's



Play The Times Accumulator game PAGE 33

Leadership challenge ruled out

Buoyant Tory MPs to stick with Major

SENIOR Conservatives capitalised on improved party morale last night by formally ruling out any challenge to John Major's leadership before the next general election.

The surprise move came after a series of strong question time performances by the Prime Minister exploiting the Harriet Harman affair, and as the Labour leader himself. acknowledged the gains the Tories had reaped from Ms Harman's decision to send herson to grammar school.

The Conservatives were further boosted yesterday when a former Labour policy director suggested that Mr Blair's stakeholder society would cost billions of pounds, requir-ing heavy public sector investment and higher borrowing. The Tory chairman, Brian Mawhinney, immediately de-clared that the "real cost of Labour had been exposed and warned voters to watch

. Dr Mawhinney meanwhile warmly welcomed the Conservative 1922 Compainer executive's decision to suspend the rules governing leadership enge in November He said it

was very sensible The decision was taken to prevent renewed speculation about Mr Major in the Conservatives do badly in the local elections in May. Senior party. members said last night that a challenge this year would have been unthinkable, but that would not have stopped

the press writing about one". In the meantime, the present rules are being re-viewed, with many Tory MPs believing that there should be no mechanism at all for a serving Prime Minister to be

The 1922 decision is evi-

dence of the dramatic change of mood among Tory MPs, who are eagerly awaiting the next opinion polls to see what impact the education row has had on their rating. Although most accept that they face an uphill struggle to pull back. Labour's lead, they believe that they have been presented

with a clear target.

Mr Blair recognised that last night in his first big party speech since Ms Harman said the was sending her son Joseph to St Olave's grammar school in Orpington rather than to a local comprehensive.

6 Routine loyalty, orchestrated:

adulation: after a long interruption, the Tory Party is back on track?

- Matthew Parris, page 2

And the storm showed no sign of subsiding as emergency of the nine branches in her Peckham constituency demanding she resign from the Shadow Cabinet.

In his meet the people speech in Brentford, Mr Blair addressed the issue head on as he attacked the Tories. 'It was, not a member of the Shadow Cabinet that lost people their jobs, their homes, their businesses," he said. "It was not an II-year-old boy that raised their taxes. It was a 17-year-old Government that has made too many mistakes and told too many lies for the public ever to forget or forgive what they have done to our

He then sought to turn the hypocrisy charges that had been levelled at his party against the Tories, saying Theirs is the party that says one thing and does another. They say one thing before the election and they do another afterwards. They are the risk. They are the danger. A Tory fifth term is the nightmare.

... Will you be paying to see a doctor? Will your child be taught in a class of 100? Will you be trapped in negative equity. Will you all be on contracts that mean you can be fired at a moment's notice without explanation?"

Mr Blair had earlier faced further embarrassment when the former Labour policy di-rector Ruland Wales admitted in the New Statesman that the stakeholder society would not come cheap. In the housing sector alone, it is estimated that provision; of adequate social housing will cost between £10 and £20 billion. How will Labour pay for it?"

Voters wanted more jobs, bester schools and bester health and hoosing. Mr Wales wrote. "Awaiting the fruits of growth is unlikely to be enough; a Labour chancellor will have to find the funds to start making good the chronic public sector-investment gap, while calming the fears of the

But last night party sources dismissed both his claims and his role in the party. "Roland Wales was left out of policy formation when he worked for the Labour Party and from what he said today you can see why," an official said. "He had no input whatsoever into policy making and, even if he wanted them to be, his views were not taken seriously."

· Harman revolt, page 10 | had mistakenly sold them a



Margaret Webb and her husband Keith with JJ last night after the amicable settlement on the pup's future

Deal on custody ends dogfight

BY TIM JONES

A TEARFUL and acrimonious battle over the ownership of JJ, a playful and potentially valuable Irish setter pup, was decided yesterday when a judge agreed it could remain with the couple who bought it. . But the six-month-old bitch, registered with the Kennel Club as Goldings Hellebora. ve to return in months to where she was born to give birth to a litter.In a

settlement which mirrors complicated divorce case access agreements, both sides will have the right to visit the dog when it is not with them. The saga began last October when Margaret Webb of Swindon, Wiltshire, was presented with the puppy by her children who had clubbed

together £350 to buy it to help her overcome a serious illness. Three days later, Biddy Evans, who with her husband George runs the Fosse Dogotel and Cattery near Cirencester, rang to say she bitch instead of a dog and wanted it back.

Yesterday, minutes before the warring parties were due to continue their battle at Swindon County Court, their solicitors reached an agreement which Judge John Me-Naught doubted could have been resolved by litigation.

Once II comes into season after her second birthday Mrs



This is the last time I do a client lunch"

take her away for a week to be mated with a stud dog.

Then, eating only food ap-proved of by Mrs Evans, JJ will spend eight weeks of her pregnancy with the Webb family, before returning to the Dogotel to give birth. JJ will spend ten weeks

there with her pups before being returned to Mrs Webb. If the mating is successful and produces at least three puppies, including one satisfac-tory breeding buch which Mrs

Evans will keep, the tug of love If JJ fails in her first mating to meet the terms of the settlement she will return to Dogotel for one more try. Mrs Webb will have the right to one of her puppies.

During her absences, both sides will have the right to go

and see JJ and take their vet with them if they wish. On these visits, both parties have agreed "to act fairly and reasonably".

Because JJ's lineage and pedigree could make her litter very valuable the Webbs have

Credit card code cracked to trade on Internet

BY NICK NUTTALL TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE Internet is set to become a multi-billion pound world superstore. Two leading credit card companies vesterday announced that they have developed a way of making safe payments over the electronic computer network that envircles the globe.

Experts are predicting that within four years the computer purchase of goods from wine and cars to computer games and information services could grow from a £350 million-a-year business w £200 billion.

Until now development of the Internet for shopping has been hampered by the difficulty of ensuring that electronic payments are secure from hackers and credit card fraudsters. Most computer shopping is done over private networks run by firms like Compuserve.

But the breakthrough by Visa and Mastercard with help from firms like Bill Gates's Microsoft and RSA Data Security, opens up shop-ping and commerce to mil-lions, "This is the first step in making cyberspace an attractive venture for banks and merchants," said Edmund Jensen, president and chief executive of Visa international, which has 442 million cardholders.

The Internet could also be a boon for entrepreneurs with but no big budgets to advertise their wares in the traditional

tem requires someone using the internet to have special software which will be embedded in standard products like Windows 95. When the user dials the credit card details into the computer, the software scrambles the numbers into a code which is transmit-

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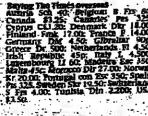
MATHS on VIDEO

Reform of Nato urged by Chirac

President Chirac, on the first state visit to America by a French leader in 12 years, has proposed a transatiantic charter to reform Nato and place more responsibility for secunity on Europe. In his address to a joint

meeting of Congress, M. Chirac called for a renewed partnership. He said American commitment, both mili-parily and politically, was still essential to the stability of a growing Europe, but he em-phasised that Washington need not always play an active role. Solidarity was "the best

The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.nk









TV & RADIO

Songwriters deprived of royalties

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of composers and songwriters have been deprived of income by inefficiency and poor management at the Performing Rights Society, which collects royalties on their behalf, a government report concluded yesterday.

The report by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission found that the society, Brit-ain's only licensing body for composers and songwriters. operated in a monopoly situation and against the public

The MMC's year-long inquiry into the society was prompted by long-running complaints from both struggling and well-known composers, including Lionel Bart, who wrote Oliver, and the Irish rock group U2. The ciency arising from deficien-

Dublin band has started legal proceedings to challenge the society's right to collect royalties for live performances. Under the live royalty sys-

tem, introduced three years ago, the society records details of performances at 500 large venues and then uses this as a yardstick for all halls. Writers of classical and minority forms of music allege that this ignores many performances of their work in small halls. The society, founded by a group of music hall composers

in 1914, raises more than £150 million in royalties for its 29,000 members. John Taylor, competition and Consumer Affairs Minister, said that the MMC report had found "evidence of ineffi-

cies in corporate structure and management practices". The MMC was "not convinced that the society's practice of exclusivity is so essential that no further exceptions can be allowed," he added.

A spokeswoman for the MMC said: "Lots of money that the society has been collecting bases are a second as the society has been collecting bases." collecting has gone into ad-ministration, rather than to the artists."

The MMC report makes more than 40 recommenda-tions, aimed largely at improving the society's efficiency and its accountability to composers and songwriters. The Director-General of Fair Trading has now given the the society four months in which to implement the reforms. Dominic McGonigal, performer and composer adminstrator at Incoporated Society of Musicians, which represents composers, welcomed the findings. Their administration costs got up to 20 per cent of what they collected. We regard this as high and would like to see it reduced to 12 to 15 per cent."

Terri Anderson, a spokes woman for the society, said that over a third of the actions proposed in the report had already been met.

John Hutchinson, who was appointed chief executive of the society last November, said: "Publication of the report will add a spur to the total strategic review of the business, which is planned for



How to make the most of Tessas: tree 16-page guide

Winners and losers with the Alliance & Leicester, in **Weekend Money**

PLUS Vision, the TV and radio guide

Manchester. "Well there's nothing

UFO 'buzzed' airliner at Manchester airport

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT ALK CORRESPONDENT

A BRITISH Airways passenger jet had a close encounter with an unidentified flying object while landing at Manchester airport, an official report

disclosed last night.
The Boeing 737, with 60 people on board, was overtaken at high speed by a wedge-shaped craft as the plane descended through 4,000ft on the final stages of a journey from Milan.

OBITUARIES

BERNARD LEVIN

Captain Roger Wills reported that the UFO, which was emblazoned with small white lights and possibly a black stripe down its side, flashed silently down the side of the jet so close that his co-pilot, First Officer Mark Stuart,

incident since 1987, and after a year-

involuntarily ducked as it went by. There was no sound and no wake but both pilots were so concerned that they filed a formal "airmiss" report. The Civil Aviation Authority launched an investigation, the fourth such

long inquiry concluded yesterday that they could find no likely explanation. The three previous reported sightings also haffled the CAA experts.

The incident happened at 6.48pm on January 6 last year with the aircraft just above the clouds and visibility at least ten miles. Then air traffic controllers had the following conversation with Flight 5061:

B737: "We just had something go down the right hand side, just above

ARTS 29-31

CHESS & BRIDGE......35

COURT & SOCIAL18

seen on radar. Was it an aircraft?" B737: "Well, it had lights, it went down the starboard side very quick" Captain Wills and First Officer Stuart are certain that the object was solid and not a balloon, a model aircraft or even a military "Stealth" aircraft which the captain had seen before and would have recognised. Both pilots should be commende for their courage in submitting report, the investigators said.

SPORT......34-38, 40 EDUCATION......33 **BUSINESS NEWS.....21-28**

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Jolly jesters are in the mood for auto-slaver

ered about trade union sup-

port for private hospitals. Mr

Major found this fact fasci-

nating". Cue canned laughter.

order, like canned laughter in a TV comedy show. Government backbenchers cheered John Major's arrival, cheered his departure, and fluttered their order papers in a closing ceremony that might have been rehearsed for an American football game.

Routine loyalty, orchestrated adulation: after a long interruption, the Tory party is back on track, locked in cruise-control, stuck on autoslaver. What will have impressed the party managers at PM's Questions yesterday af-

ister's good jokes, but the way they cheered his awful ones. too. The synchronised panting of the poodles, the gentle slurp of the wet tongue against the brogue shoe ... these, like leather on willow, are music to a Chief Whip's ears.

If. in his dark days last spring, John Major had per-formed as yesterday, there would have been a few ragged cheers from his friends, no more. But now we shall report that he had another good day. Tony Blair another frustrating one. The change lies not in performance, but in mood. Blair and Major stalked



into the chamber, one after the other and almost in step, during a question to the agricultural minister about pigs. It is not clear whether they chose pigs especially for their entrance fanfare, but the minister looked up from the dispatch box, startled by the passion his opinion on pig stalls seems to have triggered, as a rather complicated answer on the tethering of sows suddenly elicited a small

health service, and Major commented that the NHS had been "undermanaged". At that, Labour was supposed to cheer, then a larger one. Blair and Major sat down and howl, giving Major his cue to say "not my words. Madam Speaker ... "and explain that adopted wise expressions as the minister ploughed on with his advice on pig husbandry. the phrase was Margaret First up, the brilliantined Or Charles Goodson-Wickes (C. Wimbledon) placed ador-ingly at the Prime Minister's feet a little fact he had discov-Beckett's. In fact Labour did not howl, but Major went ahead with his joke anyway. and the Tories mared with

المكذاعن الاصل

laughter anyway.

Blair now tried the sametrick, offering advice on the NHS then demanding: "Are you prepared to tell the Secre-

droned on for a while about

administrative costs in the

tary of State to do as I ask?" At this, the Tories were supposed to jeer (they did), prompting Blair's reply "not my words." Madam Speaker ... and the hilarious revelation that a Tory had said this.

Really, this is getting ridiculous. What next? Will Blair say Chilly, for the time of year [aue Labour yelp]. Not my words, Madam Speaker, but those of Michael Heseltine last Wednesday" [Labour MPs fall about? Mr Blair's scriptwriting team do not seem to have grasped the point about these jokes the phrase in question has to sound something you would

have said. Permit this column to explain that it's no good finding any old phrase. It has: to be topical, and helpful, to Labour's argument

Mr Major then hit off one goodish joke welcoming Labour boroughs with shares in privatised industries to the stockbroker belt", and one not so good joke, noting that the Labour leader had provided Harriet Harman with "an assisted place" in the Cabinet. Both were greeted with wild Tory laughter. But then "nothing succeeds like success". Not my words, Madam

Safety

checks

cast new

doubt on

Tornado

BY MICHAEL EVANS .

DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN RAF flight safety team has

expressed concern about the

combat turning capability of the sir force's frontline Torna-

After an investigation into

engineering practices and op-erational procedures for the Tornado air defence aircraft.

an "airworthiness review

team" from the RAF's Inspec-

torate of Flight Safety has

made numerous recommen-

The air defence variant of

the Tornado, from which the

F3 was developed, flew for the first time in October 1979. In

recent years, there have been reports of "bits" falling off

during turning, including long-range fuel tanks.

The recommendations are

being examined by RAF staff

and will not be published.

Twenty-two Tornados, of both

versions, have been lost in accidents since 1990. Last

month three crashed, includ-

ing two F3s that collided at

about 14,000ft soon after take-

off from RAF Coningsby in

Lincolnshire. The four crew-

A board of inquiry was set

up and is not due to report for

many months but witnesses

said the two Tornados collided

after one had completed a

large turning circle.

Michael Portillo, the De-

fence Secretary, is considering

whether to spend about £120

million updating the Tornado F3 with new missile systems

or to lease American FI6s until

the new Eurolighter combat

aircraft comes into service

early next century.

The report from the RAF

safety team is likely to play a part in Mr Portillo's delibera-

tions, although British defence

industry sources appear confi-dent that the Defence Secre-

tary will reject the F16 option. Independent advisers to Mr

Portillo have been pushing hard to lease the American

jets, arguing that the Tornado F3s are difficult to service and

have poor manoeuvrability.

Supporters of the F3 upgrade programme, which in-clude the RAF board, insist that the new air-to-air missiles

will make the air defence iet

much more capable because

they will be stand-off weapons

which can be fired a long way

However, the air safety team from the RAF, which

included an F3 pilot, examined

the Tornado's flying capab-

ility, not its weapon systems and raised doubts about

The special review teams

from the Inspectorate of Flight

Safety have already inspected the Chinook helicopter and the Harrier GR5/7 and have

started an examination of the

from the target.

turning at speed.

Asylum details must be disclosed

ordered to disclose details of ment of Dominica about ment of Dominica about providing asylum for the Saudi dissident Muhammad al-Masari Judge Pearl, at an Immigration Appellate Authority hearing directed the Home Secretary to release information surrounding the case. Dr Masari's attempt to postpone a full hearing of his appeal against removal from Britain has been refused.

Sex tours' review

fireme l

A legal loophole that allows British criminals to escape punishment for offences abroad is to be examined in a full review ordered by the Home Secretary. The study is aimed at the growing "sex tourism" industry in which people travel abroad and commit sexual offences against children.

Fossilised flower

Fossils of what could be the oldest flowering plant have been found in Kent. The 10in plant like a water buttercup, dates from 130 million years ago and was found by Dr Ed Jarzembowski, keeper of natural history at Maidstone Museum. It has been thought flowering plants did not de-velop until much later.

Scott publication

The long-awaited report of the Scott inquiry into the arms-to-Iraq affair is to be published on February 15. The findings of the investigation. which may heavily criticise ministers, will be released under the terms of the 1840 Parliamentary Papers Act. which will prevent individ-

Police win say

The Home Office made further concessions to the police about who controls MI5 operations in fighting organised crime. The Bill outlining the Security Service's new role was changed to make clear that a senior police officer will be involved in arranging the co-ordina-tion of MI5 activities.

.School code call

The Government was urged to publish a-code of practice for supply agencies after a temporary teacher allegedly lashed out at seven-year-olds for not listening to a story. The woman was said to have stapped two boys around the face and pulled a girl's hair at a primary school in South Woodford, east London.

Pub killings

Michael Murray, 44, a taxi firm boss from Selsey, West Sussex, was convicted of shooting two men at point-blank range with a revolver. Maidstone · Crown Court found him guilty of the murders of Sean Farrelly, 24, and Jason Connors, 22, who were shot in the temples in the Star Gazer pub in Selsey.

Six life terms

A paranoid schizophrenic who killed two people and attacked others after a locum released him from hospital was given six life sentences yesterday. Wayne Hutchinson, 21, a drug dealer in Brixton, south Loudon, was convicted at the Old Bailey of manslaughter, attempted

murder and wounding. Skippy down

Skippy, the Tiger Moth fol-lowing Alan Cobbam's 1926 route to South Africa, suffered engine failure eight miles out to sea after leaving Brindisi, southern Italy, yesterday. Tony Richards, the pilot, managed to glide to safety oo a firing range but then came under fire from

GPs and foreign staff drafted in

Hospitals struggle with shortage of casualty doctors

By JEREMY LAURANCE AND JOANNA BALE

worse off. I have never known

minor injuries.

CASUALTY departments are facing the worst shortage of doctors that can be recalled and are struggling to remain open during the winter peak demand, consultants said yesterday.

The British Medical Association said there was a "desperate crisis looming" which was aiready leaving some casualty departments dangerously understaffed.

In areas such as Essex where recruitment is difficult, hospitals are having to offer golden helios" worth £2,000 to attract junior doctors and nurses. Some hospitals have hired GPs. Many are recruiting from the Continent, South Africa and Australia,

There has been a sharp rise in emergency admissions, esti-mated at 13 per cent last year. and a shortage of hospital beds. The BMA reported last month that casualty departments had been forced to close temporarily because they had no empty beds.

The reduction in Junior doctors' hours and the ending of the compulsory requirement for trainee surgeons to spend time working in casualty have An extra 2,500 senior houseofficer posts have been created but there are insufficient graduates to fill them.

Dr Howard Baderman. consultant in charge of accident and emergency at London's University College Hospital, said: "I understand that juniors are being offered £1,000 when they take up the six-month contract and then £1,000 on completion."

Dr Helen Cugnoni, consul-

are working round clock

tant in Accident and Emergento pay GPs £400 a night to staff casualty departments. After several months and recy at the Royal London Hospital, said the department had failed to fill all its 24 posts. cruiting from abroad, their "We are a teaching hospital. Other hospitals are likely to be posts are now full. Alan Langlands, chief exec-utive of the NHS, admitted

such difficulties recruiting julast month that casualty departments were strained to the Hospitals are resorting to limit. In an interview in the Health Service Journal he I Mayday Hospital, Croydon, has agreed a £100,000 deal with local GPs to ease the burden on the Accident and said: "I'm constantly seeing A&E departments under pressure. It's a long time since I have seen an A&E consultant wearing a shirt and tie. They Emergency Department: GPs take over the treatment of are at it day in and day out."

Stephen Dorrell, the Health At the Prince Charles Hos-Secretary, yesterday admitted pital. Merthyr Tydfil. GPs that the Accident and Emerwork in casualty at weekends. gency service faced problems ☐ Edgware Hospital, in Midbut said they were not unexpected. "It doesn't take a dlesex, has three of six junior doctor posts to fill in its casualty department. Having rocket scientist to work out that if you have fewer people working shorter hours you need more people around." advertised in journals, it is to try medical locum agencies. Peterborough Hospitals Trust in Cambridgeshire had

That is exactly why my colleague Gerald Malone [the Health Minister] convened a meeting just before Christmas to see what can be done," he said. Mr Malone announced that restrictions on A&E departments appointing staff-grade doctors would be lifted, and an inquiry into giving GPs a greater role in treating minor miuries.

Mr Dorrell was speaking on Radio 4's The World at One in response to a survey by Dr lan Stewart, consultant in Accident and Emergency at Derri-lord Hospital. Plymouth, who had said that up to one in five junior doctor posts would fall vacant in casualty by next week. Junior doctors traditionally switch to new jobs on the first Monday in February.



An RUC officer clashes with a mourner at the funeral of Gino Gallagher in Belfast

Adams raises lone voice against all-party polls

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BY MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND NICHOLAS WOOD GERRY ADAMS was in danuty Prime Minister, emerged from four hours of talks in

ger of isolation last night in his opposition to elections in Northern Ireland. As the Sinn Fein president entered critical talks in Washington with the Clinton administration, Dublin appeared to be backpedalling on its outright opposition to elections as the passport to all-party negotiations about a permanent peace senlement.

Britain was hoping that Tony Lake, National Security Adviser to President Clinton. would put pressure on Mr Adams to drop his "implacable" opposition to elections as the next step in the search for peace. President Clinton was expected to "drop by" on the talks - a prospect that raised British expectations that the Administration was "sweetening" its message that Mr Adams should accept elections as a passport to all-party talks. Dick Spring, the Irish Dep-

London with Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, to concede that John Major's counter-proposal to last week's Mitchell report recommending decommissioning during all-party talks remained in play.

The reservations still remain but at the same time we are prepared to discuss the proposals," Mr Spring told a news conference. Last week. he condemned the British plan as a "cul de sac".

Irish government sources admitted that although details and obstacles to progress had still to be resolved, the plan for an elected body as a platform for all-party talks had not been ruled out. In another sign that London and Dublin are working overtime to heal last week's rift, the two ministers agreed to hold a further meeting in Dublin next Wednesday. There was more violence in Ulster yesterday as mourners clashed with the RUC at the funeral of a leading republican who was shot dead in Belfast earlier this week.

The funeral of Gino Gallagher, the reputed leader of the Irish National Liberation Army, had to be postponed until today after scuffles broke out outside his house in Belfast as police tried to prevent him being given a para-military send-off.

A university lecturer, who is a self-confessed member of the IRA, lost his appeal against conviction yesterday for plotting to bomb mainland Britain, Feilim D'Hadhmaill, who was jailed for 25 years in 1994 after being caught with bombs, Seintex, arms and ammunition, claimed that he did not get a fair trial at the

Puma helicopter. The airworthiness reviews were set up in the early 1990s after concerns over a series of problems with the Italian air force.

Bottomley to hold talks on sports coverage

By NICHOLAS WOOD

URGENT consultations on relevision coverage of premier sporting events will be announced by the Government

Virginia Bonomley, the National Heritage Secretary, will try to defuse a looming political row over satellite broadcasters monopolising national sporting occasions, such as the Wimbledon onals, by publishing a discussion paper. She will also invite broadcasters, the sports authorities. viewers' organisations and sportsmen and women to meetings over the next

The BBC and ITV, backed by a crossparty campaign led by Labour, want the Government to ban subscription television services from acquiring exclusive rights to eight "listed events":

the Olympic Games, the Derby, the Grand National, the Wintbledon finals, Test matches in England, the lootball World Cup, the FA Cup Final and the Scottish FA Cup Final. .

Mrs Bottomley will try to concentrate the debate on the need to balance the widest public acress to great sporting occasions with the freedom of sporting bodies to sell television rights to the highest bidder,

However, it is understood that privately she is opposed to "heroic change in the existing arrangements, which in practice debar satellite braodcasters such as BSkyB, partly owned by News International, parent company of The Times, from making significant inroads. Her stance has been bolstered by the decision of the International Olympic Committee to sign a deal with the BBC giving it coverage of the Games until 2008. Her paper is likely to point out that most of . the eight events are already the subject of contracts with terrestial broadcasters and are not up for negotiation in the immediate future.

Mrs Bottomley is understood to believe that fundamental changes in the rules covering television rights can be postponed until the digital television revolution planned for the turn of the century comes about.

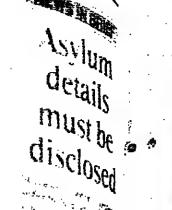
The new technology will create about 20 terrestrial channels and will greatly expand BBC and ITV outlets. She is said to believe that the advent of this new framework could prove the catalyst for a free market in big sporting

Her paper will say that many members of the public see events such as Wimbledon as an important part of

should be available as widely as possible. But that has to be balanced against the boost to sports facilities and coaching for young people that can flow from sporting bodies securing the

full market rate for their star events. Mrs Bottomley's hand has been forced by amendments to the Broadcasting Bill, now in the Lords, tabled by Labour with cross-party support. Lord Donoughue, Labour's national

heritage spokesman in the Lords, said: Together with Lord Howell [the former Labour sports minister] and leading peers from all parties, we are seeking to prevent anyone having a monopoly on the live showing of any of the eight listed events. We don't want to ban Sky from showing them but we will ensure that they will not have a



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Footballer jailed for butting opponent escapes ban



Ferguson: served six weeks

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Everion footballer Duncan Ferguson yesterday won his legal battle to overturn a 12-match ban for head-butting another player. The ruling could pave the way for more sporting bodies to be challenged in the courts.

A judge has ruled that the Scottish Football Association's disciplinary comminee acted beyond its powers in punishing the £4 million striker for an offence that happened nearly two years ago when he was playing for Rangers. Ferguson served six weeks of a three-month jail sentence for the

Lord Macfadyen said the pun-

Court of Session in Edinburgh.

The successful judicial review in the Scottish courts is thought to be the first in Britain against a sporting body. Courts in England and Wales - which have taken a more restrictive view of the boundaries of judicial review - do not have to follow it. But lawyers believe it will have influence.

Edward Grayson, a sports law barrister and author of Sport and the Law, said: "Sports bodies have always been held to be non-public bodies, although they do have public functions. There have been a number of complaints against sporting administrative bodies, including the Aga Khan against

judgment released yesterday at the cation of his winning racehorse. Aliysa, and the Football League against the Football Association over its establishing of a premier league. But they have all failed."

Mr Grayson said perhaps the English courts would follow suit and there could be a rash of similar challenges to the decisions of sporting bodies.

Ferguson head-butted John McStay, a Raith Rovers player. during a match at Ibrox in April 1994. Ferguson's lawyers argued at a court hearing earlier this month that the SFA's disciplinary committee had not complied with the rules in imposing the 12-match ban and so had no powers to do so. The lawyers said that under

committee could impose punishment only in exceptional cases of a player's misconduct. This punishment had to be "additional"; it could be imposed only where the player had been booked by the

But as Ferguson had not been punished by the referee during the game for the offence, there had been no original punishment and so the committee could not impose an additional one, his lawyers

The SFA opposed the argument. But Lord Macladyen said in the conclusion of his judgment yesterday that the committee had acted ultra vires in its attempt to deal with Ferguson's condoct "in an

by any of the match officials and in respect of which there was no scale penalty incurred.

"It follows that the severe censure and 12-match suspension which they imposed were invalid and of no effect." He said he would therefore rule in favour of the

Blair Morgan, Mr Ferguson's solicitor, said that the outcome was the end of a long nightmare for the player. "He is delighted he is able to resume his playing career. If the decision had gone against him, he would potentially have missed the next seven games.

"He is back to playing and back to match fitness. A different result today would have been a setback.

He can resume his career with Everton and Scotland. He isexceptionally pleased, it is the end of a very unpleasant period of his

Joe Royle, the manager of Everton, said he was delighted that Ferguson's ban had been lifted. "We are all delighted for Duncan, the club and the fans," he told Radio City in Liverpool. "Let's"

just get on with the football now. "It has been hanging over his head and we are delighted. We don't want to say too much more apart from that because the thing has dragged on for so long and we want to keep it as low-key as possible."

Footballer banned, page 40

Part-timers killed in explosion were wrongly told boy was trapped in upstairs room

Two firemen die after going back into empty house

By RICHARD DUCE

TWO part-time firemen died inside a blazing house yester-day after wrongly being told that a young boy was trapped inside. Stephen Griffin and Kevin Lane were killed when a sudden explosion wrecked the terraced house in the former mining village of Blaina,

They had already brought out one five-year-old boy — who later died — but then went back inside believing that his younger brother was

trapped. Terry Glossop, Gwent Chief Fire Officer, said: There was no one else in the house but these two firemen did not think for a minute of their own safety before going back into the building. We are all dreadfully shocked and saddened.":

Other members of the fire crew, who witnessed the deaths of their colleagues, are to be offered counselling. They were in tears yesterday as they stood outside the charred shellof the two-bedroom house on a new housing estate at the edge



The wrecked house in which three died

ren, and Mr Lane, 32, a factory worker, who leaves a wife and eight-year-old son. both lived in the village. Blaina residents are planning to set up a fund to help the families of the two men. . Both men, who carned a

£1,500 annual retainer, were called out at 6am to tackle the fire which broke out at the house where Catherine Hardford, a single mother in her 20s, lived with her two sons. Daniel, five and Joshua,

The deaths of the two parttime firemen takes the number of firelighters lost to 20 since 1990. There are 14,792 retained firefighters in Eng-land and Wales, who, apart Mr Griffin. 42. a married from their retainer, receive hospital porter with two shilds: £10.50 for the first hour of an

incident and £5 an hour for

Mr Griffin's widow Margaret said last night: "He was dedicated to the job. He knew the risks involved. He was on call last night and went out as normal last night but he never came back.

Flags flew at half mast yesterday over the borough council offices as an investigation was launched into how the fireman died. It appeared that a neighbour believed Joshua was still inside the house but he had escaped with his mother. The two firemen. wearing breathing apparatus and carrying a hose reel, went back into the house in search of the boy.

As they climbed the stairs an explosion threw them backwards into the sitting room which was already burning fiercely. The men died in spite of their colleagues' efforts to save them.

Mr Glossop said: "The whole thing is a tragedy, but the worst aspect of all was that the information they were given was wrong. They acted in good faith and thought they were trying to save a life.". Bernard Assinder the lead-



The Blaina fire crew last summer showing Stephen Griffin, back row, left, and Kevin Lane, front row, right

er of Blaenau Gwent Borough Council, paid tribute to Mr Griffin, whom he knew socially. "He was a genuinely nice guy, an ordinary family man. The same goes for Kevin. They were just ordinary guys doing a job they valued."

At the village fire station colleagues of the dead firemen were still on duty yesterday.
The station, which until yes-

firefighter, normally has a full complement of 12 part-timers. operating a single appliance. Chris Brown, the full-time station officer, said: "If there is a call out today we will respond as we always do. The men are dedicated to the job."

David Bishop, Mr Lane's

brother-in-law, said: "Kevin

was devoted to the fire service.

when the fire broke out. Daniel was trapped upstairs. "She was in such a state of shock that she just sat there staring ahead. The firemen

When he joined it was a new

venture in his life. He had

discovered some way he could

help people." Annette Ed-wards, a neighbour, said Mrs

Harford had been asleep in

the sitting room with Joshua

were incredibly brave." Daniel, a pupil at St Mary's Roman Catholic school in Brymawr, was brought out by firemen but died despite attempts to revive him. Evelyn Wilce, the school's headmis-tress, said: "The staff are deeply shocked and saddened by this terrible tragedy. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families."

Request for a waitress was sexual prejudice

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A HOTELIER was found guilty yesterday of discriminating against men for say-ing he wanted to hire a waitress. John Tatum was taken to an industrial tribunal for sex discrimination even though he eventually

hired a man. Mr Tatum, 47, made the passing remark to a jobcentre official after becoming tired of unkempt men turnmg ap for interviews at the hotel he owns in Sandown. isle of Wight. The official reported his comment and the Equal Opportunities Commission decided to take

actioa. He will act be fiaed. The tribunal in Southamp ton heard that Mr Tatum had telephoned the Shanklin Jobcentre last March to withdraw his advertisement for staff after receiving a aumber of unsuitable applicants. Rachel Badman, the official, said he told her: "I have had several scruffy meo with riogs through their aoses or covered in tattoos. What I

want is presentable females." Mr Tatum told the tribunal he had been unhappy with the quality of applicants from the jobcentre. There was oceman they sent with dirty fingernails, bells banging from his ears, who came in shouting across the hallway: 'I've come for the job, mate."?

Egyptian wine kills **British** tourist

By Staff Reporters

A BRITISH holidaymaker fell into a coma and died after drinking three glasses of Egyptian red wine contaminated with methanol.

Charlotte Common, 55, a widow, was staying in an apartment near Cairo with two friends when she bought the bottle of Egyptian Cabernet Sauvignon from a supermarket. She drank it with a meal alone in the flat. The next day she was taken by friends to a hospital in Cairo but lapsed into a coma.

Mrs Common, from Washington. Tyne and Wear, was flown home by air ambulance but never regained consciousness and died on January 9.

Yesterday Pamela Denis, who is still at the Abu Kessem apartments where Mrs Com-mon fell ill, said: "We are very upset. I have been a friend for 20 years. The wine was bought from a local supermarket which is very popular with the British Embassy.

Methanol can be used as a cheap substitute for alcohol. Several people have died from drinking adulterated Egyptian brandies and gins. A notorious wine scandal in

A MOTORIST who angrily

The court is not yet con-

vinced of Bachelor's conver-

has been rejected. Tom

to find her handbag.



Charlotte Common: fell into coma in Cairo

Italy in 1986 involving methanol claimed 22 lives. Methanol becomes dangerous at levels of more than ig per litre. It is metabolised in the body to formaldehyde and formic acid, both of which are toxic. In the past the United States Embassy in Cairo has warned tourists not to touch any Egyptian alcohol. The Foreign Office said Mrs Common's

death appeared to be an isolated incident. Although Egypt's may be the world's longest-estab-lished wine industry, it is also one of the worst. Hugo Dunn-Meynell, of the International Wine and Food Society, said: "From what I have heard, it is not surprising Egyptian wine has poisoned someone."

Mrs Common's family, who were at her bedside when she died, said they were investigating the circumstances of her death.

Farmer told to return antiques to listed house

BY ROBIN YOUNG

A FARMER claimed yesterday that a High Court deci-sion ordering him to return a magnificent carillon clock and three huge chandeliers to a country mansion would make it unsafe for anyone to buy furniture from a listed build-

Hew Kennedy, of Bridgnorth, Shropshire, bought the French baroque clock and three ormolu chandeliers from a previous owner of Leighton Hall, Welshpool, a Grade II* listed Victorian neo-Gothic mansion built in 1851 for John Naylor of Liverpool, a banker.

The hall, commanding a view of Powis Castle, cost Naylor £2 million at the time. It boasts castellations, towers. gargoyles and mullioned windows. The building has been largely unused since the early 1980s, when it was briefly used

as a school.

After Mr Kennedy bought and removed the clock and chandeliers in 1992, Montgomeryshire District Council issued enforcement notices requiring their return. The notices were upheld by John Redwood, then Welsh Secretary, in 1994 on the advice of a planning inspector that the

pieces were fixtures and not

In a judgment given in the High Court yesterday Mr Justice Ognall rejected a fur-ther appeal by Mr Kennedy and confirmed that he must return the ornate pieces within six months. Mr Kennedy was

also ordered to pay costs. "This is the first time a chandelier has been declared part of a listed building." Mr Kennedy said yesterday. These are not even part of the original decor or the architect's design. They were installed by the owner after the bouse was built." He said the clock, which weighs several tonnes, was a free-standing

item made for exhibition. The court was told that the clock was adapted to Naylor's specifications in 1855 and decorated to harmonise with its surroundings in the hall's entrance tower.

The man who owned the hall when Mr Kennedy bought the pieces had it repossessed by the National Westminster Bank. The present owners, two Manchester metal brokers, are converting it into two large

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Traffic offender banged to rites

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK Cuomo, the court administra-

tor, said yesterday: "It had no bumped another driver's car letterhead and had very few at a toll booth has been details." sentenced to attend church. An American court ordered The letter was signed by a Rev John Cantrell but no Raymond Bachelor, 30, to clergyman of that name appworship regularly for three ears to exist in the Newark months after he was convicted of nudging the car of a woman who took a long time area. We're not too sure the letter is from a minister," Mr Cuomo said. "Anyone could have written it."

At the original hearing at Saddle Brook Municipal sion. The case was held last month and he was told to Court. New Jersey, Judge return with documentary proof that he had honoured his sentence. This week Bach-Nicholas Nasarenko asked Bachelor. "Do you go to church? Bachelor, of Newclor presented a premature letter of "proof" to the court. It ark, who faced jail or community service after being charged with criminal mis-

chief, replied that he attended as frequently as he could. Judge Nasarenko: "Well,

your minister is going to find out who you are. You're going to be a regular visitor." The judge said that he wanted Bachelor to grasp the error of his ways and he hoped that by listening to a clergyman be might learn to control his

temper. The American Civil Liberties Union criticised the sentence. Ed Martone, head of the union's local office, said that it was ludicrous and possibly unconstitutional to use religion as a sentence. "I'm sure most religious leaders don't think church is an alternative for jail," he

Mr Cuomo said that Bachefor had appeared "very happy" when he heard the sentence. He was also fined \$455 (£303). It is not the first time that

Mr Nasarenko, who is a Russian Orthodox, has hand-

ed down an imaginative sen-

tence. In November 1994 he ordered a man to cut off his ponytail as a condition to dropping an assault charge. judge ruled that drugs suspects had a right to run away from police because officers were widely seen as "corrupt,

abusive and violent".

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The major restructuring we are currently implementing is focused on how best to allocate our resources to ensure that we continue to meet our customers' needs with solutions they require at price points they can afford. Moreover, the actions we are taking to put our fiscal house in order will also have vast implications on how we do business.

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Looking forward, Apple is positioning itself to take advantage of information industry trends with the delivery of Copland, the code name of our next-generation operating system, and products based on the PowerPC microprocessor; the Newton® platform and Pippin™ technology — the television-based, affordable multimedia platform and Internet browser.

Apple's continued growth depends on constant and direct communication with you. So, I encourage you to watch spaces like this for important messages from Apple about our vision and future strategies.

Rest assured: Apple's mission remains as vibrant today as it was in 1976. It is one that cannot be realized in a year, a decade or even a lifetime. I believe it is one of the most enduring missions of any business in the world.

Sincerely,

Michael Spindler

President and CEO

On behalf of Apple employees worldwide

e-mail address: AppleForever@apple.com

Royal troubleshooter promoted

Top job for man who sold Queen double glazing

By Alan Hamilton

MEN in grey suits are taking over the world. In Queen Anne's time, the Keeper of the Privy Purse was her favourite Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough. From next August, the romantically titled post as head of the present Queen's money will go to a former senior partner in the accountancy firm KPMG.

Michael Peat, 46, has al-

ready made a brisk and bruising financier's impression on
the Queen's counting house
during his four years as her
director of finance, imposing
savings and a degree of business efficiency hitherto unknown in the red-carpeted
corridors of monarchy. The
Queen yesterday announced
his promotion to Keeper of the
Privy Purse, Treasurer to the
Queen, and Receiver General
of the Duchy of Lancaster, the
most senior financial post in
the Royal Household.

When he takes over in August. Mr Peat will assume overall responsibility for the financial running of the Queen's household, her private estates, stables and studs. He succeeds Sir Shane Blewitt, 63, who is retiring and who came to the Royal Household after a career in the Irish Guards and the City. Day-to-day financial affairs will be handled by two deputies.

Mr Peat first worked for the Queen on secondment from the giant City accountancy firm founded by his father. His decision to join her full-time in 1990 coincided with the Royal Household taking over the annual £20 million budget for the occupied royal palaces from the Department of National Heritage.

ional Heritage.

He demonstrated how far the Royal Family has moved from the days of Queen Anne in February 1993 when he gave unprecedented television interviews explaining; the Queen's decision to pay income tax. "The Queen is a very pragmatic person. I have to say that her expenditure is not

Police are investigating an accident involving the Duke of Edinburgh after a motorist reported whiplash injuries. The Duke was driving a Range Rover, which his a Mercedes that had stopped as a zebra crossing. The accident happened in Brandon, Suffolk, on Wednesday — the day after The Sun published part of a telephone call involving the Duke.

refurbishing the apartment

before Mr Peat moved in.

Buckingham Palace, however,

pointed out that the Old Etonian contributed £450 a

week towards the cost of the

flat. Similar properties in the

area, however, would fetch a weekly rent of £2,000.

In royal family finances, the

big winner is still the Treasury. Total costs of monarchy.

from the Queen's flowers to

the Royal Yacht, are estimated

at £50 million a year. Last year

the Crown Estates, traditionally handed over to the Gov-

ernment at the beginning of

each reign, delivered to the

Chancellor of the Exchequer a

Some rising costs, however, have evaded even the cold

unblinking eye of Mr Peat.

Last year the cost of the

Queen's congramlatory tele-

grams to centenarians rose

from £40,000 to £101,000. Not

even accountants can prevent

people from living longer.

profit of £84.8 million.

extravagant," he said. Since then Mr Peat has more than earned his £116,000 salary, plus performance bonus and an apartment in Kensington Palace, by making substantial savings. By installing double glazing, for example, he has saved more than £3 million over the past four years on the heating bill for Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle, His target is to reduce the annual maintenance costs of the palaces to £15 million by the year 2000.

Figures released on the orders of the Commons Public Accounts Committee last year show that Mr Pear managed to cut the Queen's electricity bill by 9 per cent on the previous year, her gas bill by 17 per cent and water charges by 53 per cent. The public opening of Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle produced £4 million towards the castle's restoration after the

Mr Peat has also been busy with the Civil List, which provides an annual grant of £7.9 million to the Queen for her public duties and the running of her office. Since Mr Peat took over, the list has built up a surplus of £16.9 million, from which the taxpayer will benefit when the list is renegotiated for a further ten years in 2001.

ten years in 2001.

The job, however, has brought its own problems for the low-profile financier. Labour MPs criticised the



Michael Peat, a far cry from Queen Anne's days when the Keeper of the Privy Purse was a woman

Prince's TV firm to produce life of Queen Mother

By Alexandra Frean, media correspondent

PRINCE Edward's television production company, Ardent, is to make a £6 million dramatised biography of his grandmother. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, which will be shown on ITV next year.

The Prince has consulted his grandmother and received her permission for the eight-part series, which covers the period from her marriage to Prince Albert, Duke of York, in 1923 to the Coronation in

The actresses Jennifer Ehle, who started in the BBC Television adaptation of Pride and Prejudice, and Helena Bonham Carter are being considered for the central role of the Queen Mother, which has provisionally been ensided Century.

A spokeswoman for Ardent said that although the Prince would have no direct editorial involvement in the production, "it would be daft to say he has not had influence in

the early stages.

"The Royal Family will not be shown scripts for the serial. It will be a very dramatic account of the Queen Moticer's early life. We won't just traw through the history. The Queen Mother is a well-loved figure and it will be a fascinating story," she said.

Vernon Lawrence, managing director of MAI Productions, which has commissioned the programme for ITV, said: The series will cover one of the most fascinating periods in our recent history, seen through the life of the Queen Mother.

"Her place and influence on

the great events of this century have never been fully appreciated."

The series will be scripted

The series will be scripted by Julian Bond, 65, whose work includes the screenplays for the films The Whistle Blower and The Shooting

A Buckingham Palace spokesman said: "The Queen Mother and the Queen have been informed and have agreed to the project."

The programme will be the Prince's second important project about his own family. Ardent Productions has already made a two-part documentary about Edward VIII, called Edward on Edward. The programme will be shown later this spring to coincide with the sixtieth anniversary of his abdication.

Ardent's first drama prochaction, Annie's Bar, a political soap set in the tearcom in
the House of Commons that
deals with politicians'
passions and peccadilloes,
had its-first showing on
Channel 4 last night.

Matthew Bond, page 39



Sid Shaw in his shop. He is expanding into bedspreads, curtains and shirts

Presley trader keeps on rocking

THE first round of the fight between a small businessman and the Elvis Presley empire over who has the right to produce the singer's souvenirs ended yesterday with a victory for the entrepreneur.

The Trade Marks Registry, part of the Patent Office, based in Loudon, provisionally allowed Sid Shaw to continue producing his Are You Lonesome Tonight? knickers, Jaithouse Rock ties and Presley soaps branded with a portrait of the "King". Jack Soden, chief executive

of Elvis Presley Enterprises. had objected to Mr Shaw using the name Elvis in his "Elvisiy Yours" merchandise. Mr Soden secured an injunction in 1987 preventing Mr Shaw from selling his souvenirs at Graceland, Presley's Memphis home.

Mr Shaw, who has a shop in Shoreditch, east London, argues that Elvis Presley Enterprises does not have sole rights to represent the singer. He has been fighting for the right to produce Presley memorabilia for 13 years. He said yesterday he would continue with his plan to expand into Presley curtains, bedspreads and shirts.



Maxweil: Peter Jay's verdict

"His only success is the avoidance of disaster ..."

So wrote Peter Jay in a memo to his successor after three and a half years as Robert Maxwell's "Chief of Staff". Read on tomorrow for Jay's recollections of the "pre-moral giant pachyderm" and his verdict on two new books on Maxwell's life and

ON THE BOOKS PAGE, ON SATURDAY



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HOME NEWS

Devalued investments provoke funding crisis

Worshippers to be asked for 5 per cent of earnings

for St Weonards, the

name of the church and

the village in Hereford

and Worcester, were ex-

amined after Ben Dur-

suddenly in December.

Police are investigating whether a crime has been

Church's fortune was squan-dered in the late 1980s. Philip

Mawer, the synod's general-secretary, said: "They [parish-

more but it is not absolutely

clear how much more. The

debate is between the aspira-

tions of the clergy and affordability." There are 11,000 clergy pensioners and

analyse the legislation. Ministers have said the Bill

is aimed at reducing the number of people making bogus applications for asylum

The inquiry is expected to report before Easter, in advance of the Bill completing its passage through the Lords.

New rules limiting the rights of asylum seekers to claim

state benefits will be intro-

Among other panel mem-bers are Rabbi Julia Neuber-

ger. Dr David Say, assistant

bishop of Canterbury, and Ranjit Sondhi, former deputy

chairman of the Commission

canons because they want to

express their feelings about matters at the cathedral and

they want an opportunity to speak their minds to the dean

The row goes back to a loss-naking exhibition of the ca-

thedral's Magna Carta in

Australia in the late 1980s. It

was exacerbated last summer

when Dr Jackson, 60, was

acquitted in a church consis-

tory court of sexual miscon-

duct with a former cathedral

verger, Verity Freestone, 31.

The Archbishop of Canter-bury, Dr George Carey, be-

came so alarmed at the

dispute late last year that he

sent two representatives to

duced next week.

Clergy seek showdown with dean

will be asked to pay

THE Anglican Church's 1.5 million regular anenders will be expected to dig deeper in their pockets to fund the clergy's pensions under proposals to go before the General Synod next week.

Senior churchmen spoke yesterday of encouraging congregations to give 5 per cent of their earnings when the collection plate is passed around in Sunday services. On average parishioners will be asked to pay an extra E1.50 a week to fund the E30 million a year needed to meet pension costs from 1998.

Each diocese will be expected to raise its share from parishioners. They promise that the impact will be cushioned as the new pension arrangements will be phased in for up to six years

The problem of clergy pensions has been looming since the 95 Church Commission-

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

MICHAEL HOWARD faces a

fresh confrontation with the

judiciary as a high-level inqui-

ry is opened to examine his

asylum and immigration

Senior religious leaders have worked with lawyers,

charities and immigration

welfare groups to set up a

wide-ranging investigation of

government plans to curb the

Britain and Ireland is the

main mover behind the inde-

pendent public inquiry. It is

The Dean of Lincoln:

asked by bishop to go

The Council of Churches for

rights of asylum seekers.

proposals.

billion, lost £800 million in investments devalued after the 1980s property boom. When the commissioners

assumed responsibility for funding pensions in 1954, they absorbed 7 per cent of income. That figure had risen to half the income by last year and is likely to swallow the entire income by 2010. The synod will be asked to

set up a pension fund, financed by contributions from dioceses and parishes and administered by a board of trustees. The Church Commissioners, who contributed E73.9 million towards pen-sions in 1994, will continue to guarantee payments to existing pensioners and commitments to clergy until a cut-off point - probably April 1998.

Vicars now face the task of selling the new policy to dwindling congregations who are already concerned at the ers, who manage assets of £2.4 way a significant part of the

Churches set up inquiry

into immigration Bill

senior former judges, who is chairing the inquiry. Sir lain

Glidewell, who retired last

year as a lord justice of appeal,

evidence from a wide range of

organisations on the princi-

ples and practical implications of the Asylum and Immigra-

Home Office officials will

have the opportunity to give

evidence to the panel during

the coming month. The move to expose the Bill to detailed

examination will re-ignite the

controversy surrounding the

Government's refusal to set up

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

CLERGY in the diocese have

called a meeting with Lincoln Cathedral clerics next week to

try to resolve the long-running

public dispute between senior

About 50 canons in the

diocese intend to confront the

dean, the Very Rev Brandon

Jackson, about his future in

Canon Raymond Rodger.

personal assistant to the bish-

op, the Right Rev Robert Hardy, said: "There is a groundswell of festering dis-

satisfaction in the diocese

about what is happening. This

meeting was called by the

the cathedral.

tion Bill.

to chair a panel taking

the 10,500 working clergy. The standard pension, of two told that £20,000 they dothirds of the previous year's national minimum stipend, stands at £8,400. nated to repair their church tower is missing. The discrepancy came to light when the parish church council accounts

When a clergyman retires he can expect to receive the sum of £25,200. Archbishops can expect twice the basic rate. diocesan bisbops 12 times the basic rate and suffragan bishops, deans, provosts and archdeacons 14 times the basic

احكذا من الاجل

The pensions are linked to stipends, which have been rising faster than average earnings during the past decade. The Pensions Board. under pressure to make cuts, is scheduled to present its proposals next summer. One option is to link pensions to

The synod will also discuss the implications of the Turnbull Report, which sets out the biggest organisational upheaval in the Church of England for centuries. The recommendations, which ef-fectively put the Archbishop of Canterbury at the head of a structure, have been widely crincised for concentrating power within the Church at

the top.

A White Paper drawn up by the Archbishops of Canter-bury and York in consultation with the synod's standing committee has made modifications to appease the hard-line

It recommends that the Nadonal Council, the proposed engine house of the Church, should be called Archbishop's Council. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York would become joint Presidents of the Council and fewer bishops would act as "executive chairmen" on the

The paper also emphasises the continuing importance of the General Synod.

hear the views of the factions.

Cathedral staff made clear

then that they no longer had

confidence in the dean's leadership. Afterwards the bishop

called for his resignation, say-

ing relationships with staff

There is likely to be further

damage done to the Church's

reputation when Ms Freestone takes her claim against the dean and chapter for unfair

dismissal and sexual harass-

ment to an industrial tribunal.

canons are sick and ored of

what is going on and they feel

something needs to be done. I

also sense there is very little support for the dean."

One canon said: "They [the



A bluetit tucks into fat-coated scraps at the Islington Ecology Centre in London

Bird lovers learn the fats of life

GARDEN birds struggling to survive the freezing weather could be thrown a lifeline by householders who pour their cooking fat down the sink. Water bosses are

appealing to cooks to mix the melted fat from the Sunday roast with seeds, dried fruit and scraps and put it out for the birds. When cooled, it can be hong in the garden,

in the cold spell. Every year 100 tons of fat are poured into the drainage system in the Thames area, blocking the pipes in 6,500 homes.

good car parks but people will

not use them. They prefer to

park illegally outside the

shops. Our wardens could win

a prize as the kindest in the

cillor on Exeter City Council

cult for wardens if they are

working in a small town

rather than a city. Often a word in an ear is better then

Mary Evans, a Tory coun-

'Rioters' called for chicken curries Prisoners involved in one of

Scotland's worst jail riots stopped petrol bombing pris-on officers and smashing up furniture to ask negotiators for 22 chicken curries, a court was

told yesterday.

The High Court in Stirling heard that rioters held a prison officer hostage and had threatened to stab him during a violent siege at Glenochil prison near Alica.

Paul McGuigan, 31, a pris-on officer, said one of the two demands was for chicken curries for the 22 men in the wing. The trial of eight men, who deny rioting, continoes.

Murder charge

Mark Weston, 21, of Ascort-under-Wychwood, Oxford-shire, will appear before magistrates at Witney today charged with the murder of Vikki Thompson, 30, who lived in the same village. The mother of two died in August. six days after she was found badly beaten in woodland where she had been walking

Shutting up shop

Jim Heritage, 37. of Coventry, who has been prosecuted 40 times and jailed on ten occasions for shoplifting, was ban-ned from all Tesco supermar-kets in England and Wales. He consented to the injunc-tion, which Tesco had sought at the High Court. "Where can I go now?" asked the divorced father of two, who is banned from his local shops.

Taxing task

A committee of senior judges, MPs and other public figures are to investigate ways of curbing tax avoidance, under the auspices of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, Lord Justice Millett and Mr Justice Carnwath, both experts in the field, have been asked to join the committee, which already includes Lords Nolan and Templeman, law lords.

Bomb made safe

A Second World War German bomb found in a lake in South Norwood: country park in southeast London was made safe after a controlled explosion by army experts yester-day. Railtrack stopped trains in the area between 8am and 9am. Residents spent the night in a nearby sports centre after the 100lb bomb was found by a park keeper.

Case collapses

The case against three Manchester men accused of killing a football fan in a brawl outside a pub in Walsall, West Midlands, collapsed. Ian Gillespie, the Walsall stipendiary magistrate, decided that Neil and Ian Spence and Steven Rimmer had no case to answer. They had been accused of manslaughter and violent disorder.

Phone alert

Islington council is proposing to issue roadsweepers in the King's Cross area with mobile telephones so they can make emergency calls if they are attacked. But some suggested the phones would attract muggers. One worker said: "If I was getting mugged, a mo-bile phone would be the first thing I would hand over." The council would not comment.

Red-handed

Surgeries and hospitals in the Thames Valley area were warned to be on the alert, yesterday for a burglar who lost a finger during a break-in when he was attacked by a greyhound. Police were un-able to take prints after the incident in Conniburrow, Milton Keynes, because the dog ate the finger while his owner

nai creatures and use a

sophisticated echo-location

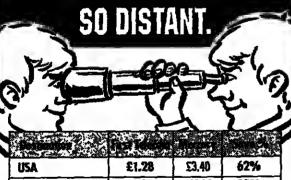
system, similar to radar, to

navigate and to detect insect

prey, though no bats are blind, contrary to popular

One of the main problems

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Australia	£2.34	£5.23	55%
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NHS 'ignoring the plight of osteoporosis victims'

By Jeremy Laurance, Health correspondent

MORE than half the health authorities in the United Kingdom are ignoring government advice on the crippling bone disease osteoporosis, specialists said yesterday.

Lives are being put at risk and thousands of people suffering unnecessarily because of the failure to implement guidelines on treatment and prevention issued a year ago by the Government's Chief Medical Officer, Sir Kenneth Calman, the National Osteoporosis Society said.

A national survey by the society showed that more than half of health authorities had made no plans to open specialist asteoporosis clinics for the one in three women and one in 12 men affected: More than

one in ten authorities admitted they were doing nothing.
The cost of a basic osteopo-

rosis service is estimated at \$50,000 in each health district. less than the cost of caring for two weeks' hip fractures. Linda Edwards, the soci-

ety's director, said: "Lack of action is condemning thousands of men and women to a life destroyed by fractures, pain and deformity because they are being denied the basic right to early diagnosis and effective treatment. Hundreds of thousands of people could avoid the disease if they received better advice on prevention and earlier treatment. It is grossly unfair that, because you live in one district and not another, your friends may be

getting help on the NHS while you receive no help or must travel hundreds of miles to obtain private treatment." Osteoporosis is caused by

loss of protein from bones, which become thin and brittle and fracture easily. Hormonal changes at the menopause make women especially vulnerable. The condition can be treated with drugs to slow or stop bone loss provided it is detected early enough. This can be done by a bone scan to measure the patient's bone

health department guidelines recommended that health districts provide at least 600 bone scans a year. Only one health authority in eight is meeting this minimum.

Gentle wardens anger traders

By Michael Horsnell TRAFFIC wardens in the old where. There are perfectly

Devon port of Topsham have been accused of being too kind to motorists who ignore the parking restrictions. Shop-keepers claim the narrow streets are clogged because the two part-time wardens are not made of the right stuff when dealing with drivers they know in the closely knit town. Instead of reaching po-faced for their ticket pads like the best of their breed, they have allegedly sought out offending motorists in nearby shops and given them a chance to move

eir cars rather than pay the £20 fine.

who lives in Topsham, said: "It is very difficult as one of them lives in the town and knows everyone. They do hand out tickets but they always do it with a smile on their face." Inspector John Pulman of Exeter police said: "It is diffi-

One shopkeeper said: "The trouble is that people in Topsham are just plain lazy and they hate walking any-

British bat follows wolf into dark night of extinction

COUNTRYSIDE

BRITAIN'S mouse-eared bat. which has not been seen for five years, is believed by wildlife experts to be extinct the first British mammal to have suffered that fate since the wolf in 1745. Several others of the 15

native bat species are rare and may be endangered. Conservationists are to carry out the first census of the dwindling bat population with the aid of a £500,000 grant from the Environment Department. Colin Catto, scientific of

ficer of the Bat Conservation

Trust, said: "Bats are an

integral part of Britain's ecol-

ogy. They are not pests and



they are not rodents. A lot of people form their impressions from horror movies and associate bats with dark imagery and evil. They need lots of positive PR. We think there

are no more than 4,000 greater horseshoe bats left and we also know that Bechstein's hat and the harbastelle bat, both woodland species, are extremely rare." The trust will



The mouse-eared bat has not been seen for five years. The wolf was the last British mammal to vanish in 1745

conduct the survey over five years with the help of 93 volunteer bat groups. The Operation will involve a painstaking count of hibernation sites and summer roosting

places, often in old buildings and bollow trees. "We will also be carrying out field surveys using detectors which can pick up the ultrasound signals emitted by bats." Mr

for bats has been the decline in insects, their sole food source, because of increased use of pesticides by farmers and the loss of insect-rich habitats such as hay meadows and marshland over the past 50 years.

Tidying up woods, with the loss of hollow trees, convert-ing old farm buildings into houses and blocking up caves and old mine shafts have also reduced the number of roosting and hibernation sites.

Police dig up body after 16 years in Bible John hunt

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

called,

la viagrad

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र उपन्याधि

Physical Air

Red-tation

POLICE exhumed the body of the man they believe to be Scotland's most notorious serial killer at dawn yesterday in a snow-covered cemetery.
Inside a makeshift tent, six

officers wearing boiler suits and surgical masks started digging up the body of John trvine McInnes, said to be Bible John, a murderer who lured young women from a Glasgow dance hall to their death's almost 30 years ago.

Two leading pathologists, Professor Anthony Basumi of Edinburgh University and Dr Marie Cassidy, a consultant attached to Glasgow University, were present as the body was brought to the surface at Stonehouse cemetery. Strathclyde. They later began the task of extracting DNA samples in an effort to establish a match with semen found on the tights of Bible John's last victim. Helen Puttock. They may also take casts of McInnes's teeth. Teeth marks on the woman's body showed the killer had deformed front

The results of the tests may not be known for some weeks but police are almost certain



Bible Juhn's photofit and Pat Docker, a victim

they have traced the killer. DNA found on the victim has already been marched with DNA from one of McInnes's

McInnes, known to friends and family as Irvine, committed suicide in 1980 aged 41 and is buried with his mother and father, Robert and Elizabeth. who are remembered by villagers as devout Christians who regularly attended the old

gospel hall.
Police also had to exhume Mrs McInnes's body as she was buried on top of her son. She died in 1987 aged 91. The dig took place at first

light in accordance with an old the sweat started to freeze on

digging. Portable heaters were brought into the tents and pneumatic drills were used to break up the ground,

Mrs McInnes's body was removed to the local undertakers. She is to be reinterred with a funeral service. Her son's remains were taken to the police mortuary in

The murders took place between February 1968 and October 1969. The three victims, Patricia Docker, 25, Jemima McDonald, 32, and Helen Puttock, 29, were strangled after leaving the Barrowland Ballroom Glasgow with a man quickly known as Bible John because

Mrs Puttock's sister, Jeannie,

who had been with her on the

night she died and met her killer, heard him quote from

McInnes, a former Scots Guardsman, who often went to the ballroom, was arrested by police but Jeannie Puttock failed to pick him out at an identity parade. She had told police that she was certain she would recognise the killer.

The inquiry reopened six months ago after traces of semen were found on Helen



Police officers confer at Stonehouse cemetery during the dig yesterday; drills were needed to penetrate the frozen soil

Puttock's tights. DNA technology, not available in the Sixties, gave a reliable genetic

fingerprint of the man. The forensic science laboratory of Strathclyde Police had put out a routine request that samples from unsolved murder cases be resubmitted for examination with the latest technology. Two detectives then spent months sifting through the evidence and questioning the original detec-tives in the case. The thousands of witness statements were computerised and searched for matches and a list of a dozen suspects was compiled before police homed in on McInnes. A DNA test on

a relative convinced them to

apply for a warrant to exhume his body.

The inquiry has shocked McInnes's family. His former wife Ella, a nurse, has remarried and lives in Saudi Arabia. She and McInnes had two children who live in England. Villagers in Stonehouse said yesterday that they remem-

bered McInnes as a smartly

dressed furniture salesman who drank in local pubs.

Police in Lothian plan to use the technique again on the victims of the World's End pub murders in Edinburgh 19 years ago. Two girls aged 17 were abducted and killed after drinking there. Police, though, say there is no prime suspect yet.

Villager iailed for campaign of arson

A MAN who brought terror to a village by setting fire to cottages and haystacks was jailed for 12 years yesterday. Alan Price, 35. a farm la-bourer, caused £229,000 damage over four years in Pitt. Hampshire, where he lived. It was luck that no one died in the fires, police said. The arsonist would be on the scene when the emergency services arrived. He once told neighbours whose house he had set

alight to call the fire brigade. Passing sentence at South-ampion Crown Court, Judge Chalkley said Price had com-mitted "an act of prolonged wickedness".

At an earlier hearing, Keith Cutler, for the prosecution, had said: "Whoever was responsible was putting the lives of the occupants in extreme danger. The prosecution is not suggesting he was attempting to kill the occupants of the houses. But we are suggesting that he couldn't care less. For some reason, he wanted his fire - so he could watch it or help the fire service. Villagers were in terror of one night

something happening."
Price denied II charges of arson and eight charges of arson "being reckless as to whether life would be endangered". He was convicted on seven counts in December.

Guy Boney, QC, for Price, said that there was a pattern between him drinking and starting the fires.

Distressing signs parents must face



DOCTORS and nurses need to work for only a week or two in a maternity unit to realise the saloon bar opinion that all babies look alike is nonsense. may appear equally beautiful, appear absolutely normal to their parents, the medical. The degree to which the staff know differently.

staff know differently.
One of the stranger facial: malformations that in a wellmale chanvinist is the by friends and neighbours. Treacher Collins syndrome, which affects one in 50,000 babies born in Britain.

Without surgery the facial deformities, and the dealness that is associated with the syndrome, make it a most distressing condition. The malformation can affect the cheekbones, the chin and lower jaw, which is often so rudimentary that the child

has a grossly receding chin. The external ears may be entirely absent, squashed or very small and the middle car also may be missing, leading to a conductive deafness.

The lack of cheekbones allows the eye to slope down-wards and the eyelids to droop. The syndrome may be complicated by cleft palate. In half the cases of the Treacher Collins syndrome it is inherit-

ed in an autosomal dominant fashion; which means that if one parent is affected the odds are that 50 per cent of their children will also have some. There are huge variations or all, of the features of it. In and, although all children the other cases the parents

some cases the deformity is so trivial that it would be appardeveloped case could not be tent only to a doctor, and missed by the most confirmed - would certainly be overlooked The frequent presence of

deafness in the condition aroused the interest of the Hearing Research Trust. With the Wellcome Trust it has supported a team led by Professor Mike Dixon of Manchester University which, working in collaboration with American scientists, has now isolated and cloned the gene responsible.

The research will enable doctors to offer more accurate prenatal and postnatal diagnosis to most of the families afflicted with the disease. Babies born with the syndrome are already benefiting from advances in plastic

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FISH landings have recovered after the storms and traditional white fish has dropped in price. Cod fillets are about £2.95 a lb and haddock £2.80. Among flat fish, lemon sole is an excellent buy, about £2.90 a lb for small to medium whole fish. Oil-rich fish are in fine condition, with large Scottish herrings about 95p a lb and

mackerel £1,20. Cauliflower and carrois are more expensive but parsnips for baking and broccoli for steaming have fallen in price. Most meat departments have discounts on beef: sales have fallen by 17 per cent since the revived BSE scare. It is high season for Cape plums, priced from 65p to £1.20 a lb.

Promotions include: Asda: fresh pork shoulder £2.39 a kg. coleslaw 62p for 333g, light corrage cheese with pineapple £1.29 for 400g. Budgens: Valentine's Day cake £2.99, white seedless grapes 99p a lb, six fresh red roses 53.99.

Co-op: fresh minced lamb £1.69 for 400g, skinless bone-

less chicken thighs £2.99 for 550g, steak, kidney and onion. pies 99p for four. Harrods: game torte £10.95. each. English roast beel £3.25 for 100g, red and black tilapia £7.25 a kg. rainbow trout £4 a

Iceland: grade A chicken 1.4 to 1.5kg £1.39, four chicken Kievs £2.75, boned kippers £1.49 for 680g, salmon campanelle 99p

Marks & Spencer: lightly or oak-smoked salmon 12.49 for 400g family Cumberland pie £2.75 for 908g, fruit salad £1.99 for 600g.

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Safeway: breaded skinned cod fillet £1.99 for 320g, creamy pepper chicken Kiev £1.69 for 567g, honey-roast ham 69p a 4 lb. crumpets 39p for 12. Sainsbury's: boneless chicken

breasts £3.99 for 567g, fresh boneless shoulder lamb £4.28 a ke, parsnips 59p a lb. Somerfield: fresh British rump or Scottish popeseye steak £6.56 a kg, cantaloupe melons £1.39 each, white seed-

less grapes 79p a lb. Tesco: large or extra large whole chicken £1.89 a kg, half shoulder of lamb £2.69 a kg, small cod fillets £1.65 a lb.

broccoli 69p a lb. Waitrose: fresh chicken goujons £2.49 for 340g, large fresh dressed Cromer crab £2.49, 450g mushrooms 99p.

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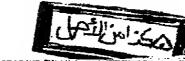
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Review of MPs' salaries answers only part of the problem

mons with outside interests forbid-

den. But this risks a further

expansion of the caste of full-time

professional politicians with little

outside experience, thus narrow-

ing the political class even more.

he debate about MPs pay is much broader than review bodies, or even salary levels. It is about what sort of MPs we want. The Government's intention to refer the issue to an independent organisation with very tight terms of reference like the Senior Salaries Review Body can therefore only answer part of the problem. At most, it will create a new, and probably cumbersome, mechanism for fixing MPs' pay and pensions. But it cannot address the real reason why Parliament is held in such low esteem and why there has been such a public outcry this

week about even ealls for a big pay

There is no agreement about the role of MPs. At one extreme is the High Tory view that being an MP is a public service, on top of people's existing business and other interests. Therefore, MPs should either receive nothing or merely an allowance in no way related to salary levels elsewhere. This only worked in a world. which disappeared half a century ago, when being an MP was only demanding for part of the year and most MPs either had a substantial

HIDDELL ON POLITICS

paid union officials. But this is now hopelessly out of date and would limit membership of the Commons to millionaires and monks. It also ignores MPs' growing burden of work, both in the Commons itself and, particularly, from constituents. But most MPs who have outside interests also spend a full week on their parliamentary activities. At the other extreme is the

Labour Left view that MPs should

What is needed is a better balance of full-time politicians and those who switch in mid-career and become MPs, spending two or three terms in the Commons. MPs should be allowed outside interests, provided these are separate from membership of the Commons. Salaries should be set at a level sufficient to attract people of

their late 30s and 40s who often have heavy family responsibilities. Almost no one becomes an MP to make money but their pay should be well above the current £34,000 a year, which is below the earnings of many officials of the Commons, let alone most political journalists. It is mischievous to add the allowance for office and secretarial expenses to suggest that MPs can earn up to £100,000 a year. Some MPs probably do abuse the sys-

tem, though more have to meet

some of their office costs from their

basic salary. It would be better to

separate the two items entirely. for higher salaries for ministers. But at some stage the Commons is going to have to go beyond merely financial calculations to

examinie whether we need as many MPs as we now have. Over the past few months, there have been a number of calls, in newspapers and from retiring MPs, notably Douglas Hurd, for a reduction in the size of the Commons. David Butler, the dean of British political scientists, argues in his foreword to the 1996 edition of the Hansard Society's Parliament and Govern-

There is an even more urgent case of MPs (currently 65) and due to rise to 659 after the election) should be reduced to, say, 500. Many would argue that the size of the executive should also be cut. This could be part of a package, including also the Nolan proposals and higher pay. There is scant chance of this happening unless there are much more radical constitutional reforms. But this is the only way that streable pay increases are likely to be politically acceptable and saleable.

PETER RIDDELL

Harman is facing revolt by local party activists

By Anorew Pierce

THE row over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school provoked calls for her resignation from members of her constituency party last

Emergency motions calling on her to "step down from her national leadership roles" were tabled in three out of the nine branches of Camberwell and Peckham Labour Party. The motions were not included on the agenda of last night's branch annual meetings because they were not tabled within the designated nine day period. The MP's local party critics denounced this as an attempt to silence criticism

Despite the procedural out-manoeuvring of the Shadow Health Secretary's small but vocal band of critics, the party leadership was struggling to contain a growing constituen-

Ms Harman, who was not present at any of last night's meetings, will have to face the fury of the 760-strong local party at its annual meeting at Southwark town hall in two weeks. Yesterday feelings were running high in the south London constituency, which is one of the poorest boroughs in Britain. In some wards unemployment is as

The row over the school has that Simon Hughes, the

brought to the surface long-standing resentment towards the MP from the left wing of the local party. But her pos-ition as MP, having been reselected unopposed by more than two thirds of the associ-ation last summer, is not in jeopardy.

Some of her critics have

Harman" in a barbed reference to the amount of time she spends at some constituency functions. Vincent Feiner, a Peckham Labour councillor and school governor, said: "We cannot be dismissed as a minority of malcontents. There is a huge furore within the local party. She should stand down from the front bench. As a governor of a local school I have to decide within two weeks whether to support grant-maintained status. I have written to Harriet Harman to seek her advice. I Have had no reply. She has

a gift to the Tories." Ian Driver, a councillor, said: There is a wave of anger in the constituency. She should resign as a member of the Shadow Cabinet."

Miss Harman has made enemies in her own backyard for moving out of the constituency and into the neighbouring and far more fashionable Dulwich. Her enemies say Liberal Democrat MP for neighbouring Bermondsey, has a higher profile in the area. Mr Hughes, for exam-

ple, is a frequent attender of the local police liaison com-mittee. Miss Harman is not. Tom Rowing, an officer of the Brunswick branch of the party, said: "Party members are angry with her. I do not want to do the Tories' dirty work for her so I would support her in any vote, I am in a minority. Most people I have spoken to are furious with her. I only hope that time will heal." John Friary, a Labour coun-

cillor who is secretary of the Brunswick branch, said: "Harriet Harman has underestimated her local party. She has breached party policy and exposed us to a Tory attack. She should have resigned from the Labour front bench." Clare Cozens, chairman of the local Labour party, ac-cused a minority of malcon-

broken party policy and given tents of causing trouble for the Ms Harman. They are not happy with Harriet Harman as MP but their views are not representative of the broad thrust of the local party." Ms Cozens denied that criticism was being stifled. "The

emergency motions arrived

too late to be included on any

agendas. I am not against debate. But I cannot tolerate

breaches of the rules."



Theatre's best perform tragedy for sceptical Commons audience

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE beavyweights of British theatre appeared at the House of Commons yesterday to plead with MPs for better arts funding.

An all-star cast gave evidence to the Heritage Select Committee, whose latest study covers the funding of the performing arts. They included the director Sir

Peter Hall, Adrian Noble, artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, Richard Eyre, director of the Royal National Theatre, and the impresario Sir Cameron'

Sir Peter attacked the Government, saying that its dwin-dling subsidy of the performing arts was allowing serious theatre to die. West End theatre would follow the example of Broadway in of fering only "plastic musicals" for tourists: He said that there were almost no plays on Broadway, and theatres that once staged them were now

In Britain, he said, every subsidised arts organisation had been "reduced to the bone", ticket-prices were dangerously high and there was no investment in the talent of the future. Cuts over the past

decade had increasingly hit the regional theatres where young actors learnt their trade. High prices were deterring young theatre goers.
"At 14, I was able to

practically live in the theatre on no money at all," he said. He lamented the demiseof theatre-in-education schemes, saying: "I worry over the schoolchildren who can no longer afford to go to the theatre because there is no money in local authorities."

Sir Cameron said: "Where are the new people going to be to replace us when we come to the end of our sell-by

Mr Eyre sounded a note of despair after listening to Joe Ashton (Lab, Bassedaw), who castigated the RNT and the RSC for not trying harder to

secure business sponsorship.

sports example of displaying sponsors names on stadiums and clothing. Mr Eyre retorted: "Of course it doesn't happen. Football gets shown on TV. Theatre is seen by a small andience and is : untelevised." Mr Eyre expressed con-

The MP wanted to know why theatres did not follow the

cern that 99 per cent of the tountry, including politi-cians, assumed that the lottery had endowed the arts with an "extraordinary fourtain of riches" and that any funding problem must have been cared. In fact, the lottery had made it more difficult to argue their case We appear to be

whingeing."

He called for the Government to change the rules that restrict lottery money to capi-

Major is expected to call pay inquiry

By PHILIP WEBSTER
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Government sought to defuse the row over MPs salaries yesterday by taking independent inquiry.

If the Opposition parties agree in talks over the next few days, the Senior Salaries Review Body, which decides the pay rates for judges, army officers and senior civil servants, will be asked to investigate MPs's pay.

Senior government sources predicted a "substantial" in-quiry. But leading figures in both the main parties agreed that if the review results in big increases in the salaries of ministers and MPs it should. ideally be dealt with before the general election.

pred into

meat over

The Cabinet decided yesterday that the increasingly embarrassing clamour over pay should be handled speedily. Demands from more than 300 MPs for an inquiry that some hope will lead to a doubling of their £34,000 salary have been denounced as insensitive by low pay and poverty pressure

groups.
In the Commons John Major said that a "new mechanism" for determining the pay of MPs was required. The present link with the Civil Service has been made redundant because of a restructuring of salaries.

Labour had backed the call of the Commons motion for the issue to be handled by the Nolan committee. But members of the committee appear reluctant to take on the task and the Cabinet is thought to prefer the Senior Salaries Review Body because it already has within its terms of reference power to consider MPs'

The decision to move speedily came as it was revealed that more than a million public sector workers would have to settle for rises of about 4 per cent. A formal announcement on the inquiry is expected next

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Tory MP's widow is favourite to fight his seat

By James Landale, political reporter

THE battle for South East Staffordshire begins tonight when local Tories select their candidate for the forthcoming by-election.

The party faithful in this Middle England heartland will gather at the Masonic Hall in Tamworth to choose a replacement for Sir David Lightbown, the sitting MP who died last December.

Sir David's widow, Anne, has reached the final shortlist of three and is favourite to win Lady Lightbown, a 57year-old former teacher, is popular and many Tories hope she will carry on where her larger-than-life husband left off. Although no date has been fixed, the poll is expected to take place next mouth.

With a Tory majority of just 7.192, Labour is clear favourite to win the seat. The party already controls both councils in the constituency.
But local Tories hope the

new-found confidence of their MPs at Westminster will encourage traditional but wavering suppoters in Tamworth. Many Tories know they have a slim chance of achieving what would be the first byelection victory for the govern-ment since William Hague, the Welsh Secretary, won Richmond in 1989, Although the Tory majority in Staffordshire South East dropped by 3,000 at the last election, the

£9.99

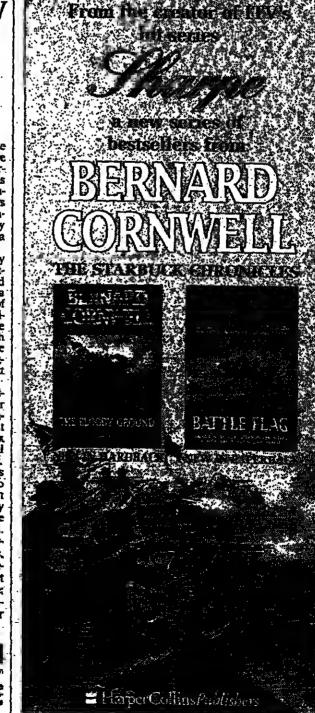
party's actual share of the vote went up. Tarnworth Tories are also well aware of their market town's place in history as the birthplace of modern Conservatism. Sir Robert Peel's Tamworth address in Decem-ber 1834 united a divided Tory party and set the stage for a revival of party fortunes.

Ron Cook, the Tory party chairman, is convinced history will repeat itself and Tamworth will become a benchmark for a new era of Tory popularity. The feelgood factor has returned to the party in Staffordshire South East." he said. "We will use this by-election as a springboard to win the next election." · However the Labour candi-

date, Brian Jenkins, 53, leader of Tamworth Borough Council. says he is convinced that dissatisfaction over Tory tax rises and job insecurity will swing voters towards Labour. Six of the 25 or so Tory MPs who are seeking safer seats to fight at the general election have been shortlisted for Bury St Edmunds and will be interviewed this weekend. They are Robert Banks, Harrogate, Nicholas Hawkins, Blackpool South: Michael Stephen, Shoreham; Dame Janet Fookes, Plymouth Drake: John Wans, Slough; and Richard Spring, who was MP for the old constituency.

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTEROAY IN the Commone: questions





ARTS 29-31

The musical that's all in the worst possible taste



EDUCATION 33

Why universities are planning a £300 student levy



SPORT 34-40

Clement Freud on South Africa's grand finale



BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2 1996

Insurer aims to become £500m limited company

PPP to abandon provident status

PPP, the private healthcare insurance group, is poised to

The move, which could be announced as early as next week, is understood to be part. of an attempt to maintain market share in an increasing-ly competitive market. It will provide greater flexibility in capital raising and could pave the way for another firm to

or for a stock market flotation. As a provident association, which traces its routes back to 1938, PPP is not technically owned by anybody. It is a company limited by guarantee. In its present structure it has a 13strong board of directors who run the business and sit on a board of 26 appointed governing members. This board includes members of Royal medical colleges, the British Medical Association, and in-

guarantee, but their liability is limited to one guinea each.

PPP is thought to be about to create a trust vehicle that will own the company. This wouldenable it to meet corporate governance standards, to have greater flexibility for access to capital for acquisitions and to issue new shares that could be sold to a third party. Those thought likely to be interested include Abbey National, Legal & General and other insurers. or building societies.

million advertising campaign. a new corporate identity and a new range of products. It also changed its name from Private Patients Plan to PPP healthcare group, to reflect a

ing-led organisation and to increase low consumer awareness of the company. PPP is the UK's second

biggest private medical insurer with a 27 per cent share. In 1994 its pre-tax surplus was £25.3 million, down from £39.9 million, after reorganisation costs. Net assets

Bupa and PPP have been

panies and building societies whose traditional insurance and mortgage markets have been flat. Healthcare insurance is seen as a profitable market, given the increasing age of the population and the

need for long-term care.

Abbey National bought Pegasus, a critical illness insurance and healthcare company, last year and is known to wish to increase its presence in the healthcare insurance market. Norwich Union, the large mutual insurer, is also at-

ket share. The need for inbehind Norwich Union's decision to seek a stock market flotation next year.

Guardian, the composite insurer, last year started to sell basic private health policies by telephone.

Nationwide last month announced changes aimed at reducing its dependence on traditional mortgage related products. These included the sale by Nationwide Life of a permanent health insurance policy bought in from PPP.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

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2.2585 7.7510 1.8459 182.06 83.6

ST S DOLLAR

Tokyo close Yen 107.03 NORTH SEA OIL Brent 15-day (Apr) \$16.25 (\$16.15)

London close \$410.35 (\$405.75) denotes midday trading price

COLD

Tunnel blast

Sir Alastair Morton, cochairman of Eurotunnel and former chairman of the Private Finance Initiative, is expected to launch a strong attack on the Government's handling of the cross Channel rail link. He is also expected to make recommendations on how future large scale financial projects should be handled. Page 22

Bid agreed

Trade Indemnity, the credit risk insurance company. yesterday agreed to accept a takeover bid worth £177.3 million from a French

AND ROBERT MILLER

announce plans to shed its provident status and become a limited company valued at an estimated £500 million.

dependent lawyers and accountants. The members' governing board provides a

This structure makes it difficult for the firm to raise capital or consider joint ventures.

mix of products.

The decision to change its structure follows an 18-month review of its business and strategy. For the past year this has been led by Peter Owen, a former British Airways senior executive, who came in as chief executive with the brief of turning PPP into a market-

were £300 million. The new company would be valued at a premium to its net asset value.

or an estimated £500 million. Bupa, which is also a provident association, has a 45 per cent share of the market.

Shares jump as Misys springs profits surprise

BY MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Misys rose almost 10 per cent yesterday after the software company reported an increase in halfyear profits to £19.2 million before tax from £11.2 million. The shares ended 62p high-

er at 637p as analysts reassessed forecasts for the full year. The results, covering the six months to November 30, are the first to include a full contribution from ACT, a software company acquired by Misys last year for £193

Kevin Lomax, chairman of Misys, said the results were ahead of the company's own expectations and reflected a particularly strong contribu-tion from the enlarged banking division.

The pattern of trading is developing as expected and should result in a stronger bias towards the second half than normal," said Mr Lomax. Assimilation of the former ACT businesses was now substantially complete.

came from the addition of the ACT banking businesses to existing banking operations, where sales increased to £64.3 million from £15.7 million. Mr Lomax said the worldwide consolidation oow underway in the applications

Group revenues increased to £129.5 million from £63.9

million. Most of the increase

software products industry would provide further oppor tunities to expand interna-tionally. The level of borrowings was reduced to E5.9 million from E12.4 million during the first half, leaving the company wellplaced to consider boil-or acquisitions. The banking division expects to benefit from growth in demand from

emerging economies. The interim dividend is increased to 3.97p a share from 3.45p. payable April 4. Earnings were 16.9p a share, rising from 16.2p.

Tempus, page 24 company. Page 23

BUSINESS ACCOUNTS



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High Street Bank	-£75.00
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British Coal forced into retreat over pensions sale

BY CHAPTIME BUCKLEY

forced to halt the sale of its company that manages per-sions worth E17 billion for miners and staff, after trustees derailed plans for Friends Provident to buy the business. British Coal said it was disappointed that the sale had

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been scuppered after some... and one for staff - objected because they feared job losses at CINMan, the management. company, and because they wanted the funds managed in a more hands-off manner.... In December, British Coal

sparked anger among sections of the trustees when it singled out Friends Provident as the preferred bidder for CINMan, after a lengthy search for a buyer. Many trustees preferred Sal Oppenheim, a German private bank.

Friends Provident is thought to have bid about 680 million to manage the funds, while Sal Oppenheim is understood to have offered about El8 million: The German bank

Facia and Sears find a fit BY SARAH BAGNALL.

STEPHEN Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman, is about to expand his retail empire early next week with the purchase of Saxone and Curtess, two high street shoe chains owned by Sears. The deal will come less

than a month after Sears publicly revealed the chains were up for sale. Liam Strong, Sears chief executive, said the com-pany had decided to sell its 111 Saxone and 124 Curtess stores and that if no deal materialised relatively quickly, then the stores would be closed with the loss of 1,700 jobs.

in the space of two years Mr Hinchliffe — dubbed king of the high street in Sheffield — has built from scratch one of the biggest privately owned retail companies in the country. This deal will be the second between Facia, Mr Hinchliffe's company, and

Last August, Facia acquired 245 shoe shops in the Freeman Hardy Willis. Trueform and Manfield chains from Sears. These joined Mr Hinchliffe's string of existing business-es, including Sock Shop, Salisbury, the handbagbusiness, Torq, the cosnune jewellery chain, and Red or Dead, the fashion and footwear company.

BRITISH COAL has been would have largely backed CINMan from a distance and left its asset management staff intact. The Priends Provident proposal involved substantial economies of scale and undoubtedly would have led to job losses. British Coal said it had a duty to realise the optimum trustees on the two pension, for its assets, once quality

thresholds were passed. But a sale of the pension-management business requires the consent of all trustees. A spokesman added that the timetable for disposal, which had originally been set for the end of January on the hopes of

securing a sale to Friends Provident was flexible. He did not rule out continuing the sale past the deadline for British Coal to quit its London headquarters in July. A source close to the trustees said they were sifting through options and may make a

recommendation very shortly. ing Sal Oppenheim back into the action and also drumming up support for a management buyout. However, if the trustees staged a buyout they would look to sell on the business within a couple of years, he added. British Coal sold CINVen,

its venture capital business, to a management buyout after looking for an external buyer. However, although a buyout is being considered it is thought to be second to win-ning the backing of a hands-off financial backer without an asset-management arm. Friends Provident said yes-

terday that it would not submit further proposals.



Production falls to three-year low

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

PRODUCTION from British ares suggest that output is manufacturers hit a three-year low in January, leading to the first decline in manufacturing employment for two years. according to the latest survey from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply.

However, there was a glimmer of better times ahead with news of a rise in orders and separate figures suggesting that British exporters are performing reasonably well in the face of the severe economic slowdown in continental Europe. Britain's trade deficit narrowed to its lowest level for eight months in November, falling to £567 million from £1.63 billion in October, according to the Central Statisti-

cal Office. One key to both sets of statistics is the continuing-effect of last year's huge buildup of stocks as demand tailed should recover relatively off sharply. Yesterday's fig. omickly.

being kept down as companies try to reduce these stock levels and, for the same reason, imports have been subdued as companies meet their demand for foreign materials from stocks. At the same time, exports have continued to

grow surprisingly healthily.
The Purchasing Managers' index stood at 50.2 in January compared with 50.8 in December. Any reading below 50 indicates a contraction of manufacturing. The index has been hovering around 50 for five months, reflecting virtual stagnation in the sector. But although employment

fell for the first time in two years, orders, particularly for consumer goods, showed the strongest rise since August. This suggests that, once stocks are wound down, output

Seasonal surge in consumer credit By OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CREDIT card borrowing

soared in December, backing up other evidence of a relative ly buoyant Christmas in the high street, according to figures from the Bank of England.

There was an increase in net consumer credit of £797 million compared with a rise of £600 million recorded in November. The December figures topped off a year which saw a total increase in consumer credit of £751 billion, the biggest rise since this statistical series began in 1991.

Economists noted that these strong borrowing figures may not necessarily reflect higher spending. Gross lending fell slightly in December, suggesting that the surge in credit related partly to lower repayments rather than extra spending. In addition, a proliferation of zero interest rate schemes has encouraged people to use cred-it instead of cash. Nevertheless, the figures overall suggest that consum-

ers are beginning to gain in confidence. Separate figures from the British Bankers' Association confirmed that personal borrowing is quite buoyant. The association said that mortgage lending was up 9 per cent in the final three months of the year compared with the third quarter and consumer credit was up by almost a third. Total lending was up by

ter and about 70 per cent of lending to individuals. Final figures for M4 money supply showed annual growth in the measure of 9.9 per cent. Broad money has now been

toring range for three months.

£6.36 billion in the final quar-

growing faster than the upper limit of its 3 to 9 per cent moni-

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Britannia up 12% as provision reduced

By KAREN ZAGOR

BRITANNIA, which will be Britain's third biggest building society when the latest wave of mergers and conversions subsides, post-ed a 12 per cent rise in full-year pre-tax profits to £112.7 million.

Profits were helped by a 43 per cent reduction in provisions for bad debts to

F25 million.

During the year, Britannia's total mortgage lending fell 24 per cent to £903.8 milbon, but its loan book rose 4 per cent as a result of the purchase of the Lloyds Bowmaker mortgage book in July. The society blamed the decline in lending to a subdued housing market

The oumber of mortgage accounts in arrears last year dropped 40 per cent. The Britannia said this was achieved by reaching realistic payment agree-ments with customers rather than significantly increasing the number of

repossessions.

Provisions for bad and doubtful debts linked to mortgages were cut by 45 per cent to £18.3 million in

In 1995 the Britannia's assets advanced 10 per cent to £14.9 billion. Net interest receivable edged 2 per cent higher to £193 million.

Britannia's wholly owned life assurance subsidiary brought in profits of £20.5 million, from £17.7 million in 1994. The improvement was credited to lower management ex-penses and stricter cost controls

John Heaps, chief executive, stressed that the society is firmly committed to mutuality and would shortly reveal long-term rewards for current and

future members.
Although the Britannia led the pack when it announced plans to offer members tangible rewards last July, it has lagged behind the Bradford & Bingley and the Yorkshire building societies in unveiling its membership loyalty



احكنا عن الاصل

Sir Alastair Morton will explain how he believes large-scale private sector projects should be handled in future

Morton launches attack over Eurotunnel debts

By GEORGE SIVELL

SIR ALASTAIR MORTON. co-chairman of the hugely indebted Eurotunnel group that runs the channel tunnel. is expected today to say that future private sector financial projects should not follow the Eurotunnel model.

in a speech to the Engineering Council, Sir Alastair is expected to lambast the Government's handling of the Eurotunnel project. Sir Alastair, who recently stepped down as chairman of the Private Finance Initiative, is likely to say: "A PFI concession or contract is not like a privatisation prospectus -something Her Majesty's Government can file and for-

get after a few years."
On Eurotunnel, he believes: "Beyond doubt, one should not structure another project like that. The governments,

the promoters, and the banks now pounding on our doors must recognise their part in generating this overloaded structure.

vinced that: "The project struc-ture erected in 1985-87 had welded into it the excessive stresses which have since caused so much difficulty. When the overstressed struc-ture failed to deliver on time, the too-short financing structure staggered and then fell. We are now rebuilding the finances to last but, I say again, the Channel Tunnel is and will be open for business."

For the future, Sir Alastair

believes: "Project financing must evolve because infrastructure and public service needs are mounting across the face of Europe, which faces the 21st Century with an invest-

ment backlog. You cannot simply spend huge public funds to make good a massive investment deficit."

Sir Alastair is expected to Sir Alastair is also condraw three lessons from the Eurotunnel experience: It is imperative that there be an operator at the heart of, the project from the outset.

It is possible to blend public purse and private capital in PFI projects.

A PFI project is done by private sector capital to the

specification of a government department, agency or He is convinced that both

the specifying authority and the project operator have to make promises and keep them - adjusting where necessary to ensure delivery of the real substance of what was promised". Sir Alastair is expected to make the point that "Eurotunnel is currently mak-ing clear to the English and French Governments that certain promises have not been

He is expected to list examples of where project parameters were changed during its construction and early life: Ministers were able to force more safety provision into the design and operation without

paying for it.

LI BR was broken up without regard to the delivery of promises of efficient operation and traffic development, so far without redress.

The key channel of massive subsidy to the ferries, airports and airlines (intra Commun-ity duty free privileges) was improperly extended beyond I January 1, 1993, to the heavy disadvantage of the Tunnel.

SIB acts on rogue forex dealers

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Securities and Investments Board (SIB) has moved to clamp down on un-authorised foreign exchange dealing amid fears that private investors are being exposed to high-risk trans-actions and high-pressure sales tactics.

Firms have been given a month to seek authorisation under the Financial Services Act (1986) or risk being closed

down.
The number of firms to offer such services has soared in the past year, and currently stands at about 37. They have circumvented the rules by rolling over trading contracts every six days, just short of the seven-day limit under which authorisation would be required. Investors who deal under such conditions do not have access to the investors Compensation Scheme (ICS). The SIB is anxious to bring such dealing into its net.

One investor is reported to have lost close to £200,000 in five months of trading the currency markets. He is reported to have paid £35,700 in commission and fees. Another iovestor reportedly lost £74,200, and paid £27,000 in £82,000 fees — about 36 per cent of his trading losses. Investors have complained of being tele-phoned as many as ten times a day by aggressive salesmen. The SIB has received a

number of legal submissions from firms which claim they do not require authorisation in order to trade. Some may challenge the SIB ruling in court. About a quarter of the firms involved have indicated that they will seek au-

thorisation. Peter Ellis, managing director of London Currency Exchange, based in west London, welcomed the SIB move, and said the firm would be seeking authorisation. He said: "Currency trading is very much in vogue at the moment. People are much more aware of what is going on in the market." Another London firm, Global Foreign Exchange, refused to take questions over the

telephone. Firms have until March I to apply for authorisation. The SIB is prepared to seek High Court injunctions to restrain · unauthorised trading.

Bundesbank leaves rates untouched

THE Bundesbank left official German interest rates on hold yesterday, as the financial markets had expected, and, at the same time, appeared to call a halt to its policy of pushing its key repo money market rate lower by announcing a fixed-rate tender for the next fornight at 3.30 per cent, 10 basis points lower than earlier this week. The repo rate has fallen by 0.35 per cent over the past four weeks, an unusually large

in spite of the lack of action on leading rates from Germany, the Bank of France responded to the cut in interest rates in America on Wednesday by cutting its key intervention rate to 4.05 per cent, from 4.20 per cent. The French central bank last cut rates on January 18, when it shaved 0.25 per cent off the intervention rate. The Fed's decision to cut American rates appeared to be vindicated yesterday by news that US consumer prices had risen by only 0.2 per cent in December.

Whirlpool disappoints

WHIRLPOOL CORP reported "disappointing" fourthquarter and full-year profits owing to sharp cost increases and a deterioration of markets in Western Europe. Confirming its earlier forecasts, the world's leading manufacturer of major home appliances reported net income of \$18 million, or 25 cents a share, for the three months to December 31, and profits of \$209 million, or \$2.80 a share, for 1995. While those earnings were better than 1994 when the company took a \$187 million restructuring charge, they were well below the last year's operating results.

Vibroplant shares fall

SHARES in Vibroplant fell by more than II per cent after the plant hire company warned shareholders that trading conditions have continued to deteriorate in the UK. The shares fell to 86p from 97p yesterday after Jeremy Pilkington, thairman and chief executive, said the impact of the downturn would be reflected in second-half results. The company has posted to shareholders details of the proposed disposal of its-Hi-Lift subsidiary in America to Primeco Inc for a total of £68.8 million. Terms of the deal will be considered by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on February 15.

Tax-avoidance inquiry

THE Tax Law Review Committee, set up by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in autumn 1994 and enjoying cross-party support, amounced yesterday that it is to look at tax avoidance. The project is expected to take at least a year. The committee said many people believed that government efforts to thwart tax avoidance is a root cause of incomprehensible tax legislation. The tax-avoidance project will complement the work already being undertaken by the committee on simplifying the tax system, and the Inland Revenue's project to rewrite tax law in plain English.

Deloitte global move

THE management consulting arm of the former Touche Ross has joined up with its US company to form a new global management consultancy. Deloitte & Touche Consulting Group. The aim is to separate the new company from its accounting and tax parent, Deloitte. Touche, Tohmatsu International. The move is part of the current trend within accounting organisations to follow their clients in linking up and providing identical services across borders. The new company will owe its partner's incomes and its profits to a global rather than the UK company.

TRW plans £24m plant

AN AMERICAN company is to create a total of 2/5 new jobs with a £24 million factory development in Peterlee, County Durham, an area which has been hit by pit closures. TRW Inc., the supplier of car safety components, will build a 50,000 sq ft factory to produce airbag inflators. It will employ 60 people when it opens in December, but the workforce is expected to rise to 275 by the year 2000, bringing the total number of employees at TRW's 10 factories around Britain half of them in the North East - to 2.800.

Discrimination 'rife'

BRITAIN'S workplaces are "rife" with discriminition, business leaders will be told today as new survey evidence suggests that almost half of the UK's employees believe that discrimination at work is widespread. Details of a survey by consultants Austin Knight, which will be put to a London conference today, that that the content of the total part of th show that only 53 per cent of the people sampled left that career opportunities are the same for everyone with identical qualification, regardless of sex, race or other differences. Age was seen as the most widespread form of discrimination.

Higher pay forecast

PAY increases for clerical and manual workers are set to rise in the coming year, a new pay study forecasts today. The survey by Reward, the pay group, shows that clerical staff received rises averaging 3.2 per cent in the past 12 months, while increases for manual workers were 3 per cent. But employers sampled in the survey of more than 1,000 organisations suggest that increases are likely to be higher this year, with rises of 3.7 per cent for clerical workers and 3.5 per cent for manual employees. per cent for manual employees.

Baldwins halts flotation

BALDWINS Industrial Services, the UK's third largest mobile crane hire and lifting service business, has shelved its proposed flotation, the group announced yesterday. It said that the terms available for the flotation were not acceptable to the family shareholders, who had decided not to proceed at this time. The company, based at Slough, Berkshire, said it and the shareholders were reviewing options with their

THE aramis

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Valentine's Day." Furthermore, the most original Valentine message published will win a weekend break at Riber Hall, Derbyshire (above), voted one of Britain's most romantic hotels. There will also be a runner-up prize of a case of champagne.*

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House prices rise again

BY CAROLINE MERRELL

HOUSE prices have risen for the sixth month in succession. according to the monthly Halifax house price index.

The small monthly rise of 0.1 per cent in January means that house prices have risen by 1.3 per cent over the past six months, but are still 12 per cent below their level of a year ago. The Halifax said: This is further confirmation that house prices are no longer generally falling, but our optimism about recovery is still tinged with caution."

At the beginning of the year. the Halifax. Nationwide and other house price analysis predicted that prices would rise by 2 to 3 per cent over

They claimed that a house price recovery would be helped by tax cuts, money from maturing Tessas and the profits reaped by private investors from the bids in the

electricity sector.

The prices paid by first-time buyers also rose by 0.1 per cent in January, but are down 0.1 per cent compared to the same time last year. The price of new houses rose by 2.4 per cent in January and are now 5.9 per cent above their level of

Forecast by LBS expects global recovery in 1996

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

the past year in America, Europe and Japan should prevent the current slowdown in the world economy from developing into a recession, according to the London Business School.

In its latest economic outlook, the LBS forecasts that growth in the Group of Seven industrialised countries should average 23 per cent this year, a similar rate to that recorded in 1995.

Two other reasons are highlighted to support its view of a global recovery this year. First, an environment of low inflation will allow interest rates to fall further, if neces-sary, in most economies. Sec-ondly, the economies of Asia and the Pacific region remain buoyant and there are now genuine grounds for optimism that Japan will see a more meaningful recovery this year.

The British economy is forecast to grow by around 2.6 per cent, lower than the Chancellor's forecast of 3 per cent but still the fastest growth of any European country. The school said that it expects growth to

INTEREST RATE cuts over be led by strengthening consumer spending - forecast to rise by 2.9 per cent this year. compared with the Chancellor's forecast of 3.5 per cent and by a resumption of investment growth. It predicts that inflation will remain low and that interest rates will fall to 5.75 per cent by early next year, compared with 6.25 per

cent now. However, the report also highlights some risks to the outlook, including efforts to reduce deficits in Europe and the US, and structural rigidities, particularly in Europe.

The LBS said: "Continental

Europe displays neither the entrepreneurial dynamism nor the flexible labour market structures, which have helped the US economy adjust to similar challenges."
It also notes that the strong

mark, and those currencies that move most closely with it. is contributing to sluggish growth in Europe. At the same rime, European countries with weaker currencies - such as Britain, Italy and Spain — have been most successful at maintaining growth.

Clifford Chance faces writs over Canary Wharf Canadian banks sue law firm

By JON ASHWORTH

CLIFFORD CHANCE, the UK's largest law firm, has confirmed that it is being sued for £610 million by four Canadian banks that suffered in the Canary Wharf collapse, but dismissed the action as "nothing to worry about". Writs were lodged in London and Toronto last June, but the action has only now come to light.

Royal Bank of Canada, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC). Bank of Nova Scotia, and National Bank of Canada, allege that Clifford Chance provided incorrect information in a legal

opinion in 1989. The four were in the consortium of banks that controlled Canary Wharf until its recent sale, and claim to have lost out through allegedly negligent advice.

The Docklands develop-

ment collapsed into administration in 1992 after the failure of its parent. Olympia & York Developments, and was subsequently bailed out by the banks. They in turn sold out to a consortium including Paul Reichmann, the Canadian property developer, and Prince al-Waleed bin Talal, the billionaire Saudi investor. The £800 million deal was clinched in December 1995,

Clifford Chance confirmed

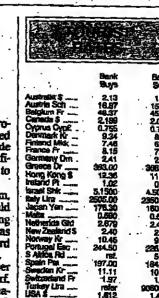
which the four claimant banks had lent £450 million in all. The firm said: "The Canadian courts are currently determining whether they have jurisdiction . . . To date, no evidence has been produced to us that any loss was incurred by these banks in relation to these loans following the collapse of Olympia & York as a result of any alleged negligence on the part of Clifford Chance.

"If the banks pursue the

netting the banks a return of claim, they will have to pro-about 95p in the pound. claim, they will have to pro-vide evidence of the alleged vide evidence of the alleged loss. They have yet to provide any evidence. We are confithat proceedings began last dent that there is nothing to year in connection with the collapse of Olympia & York to Worry about." According to CIBC's claim, the bank's belief that it would

control the completion, leasing and sale of Canary Wharf was frustrated because of Clifford Chance's alleged negligence. Sir Peter Levene, the former chairman of Canary Wharf.

has criticised as "abomina-ble" the role of North American banks in the run-up to the sale, singling out CIBC and Royal Bank of Canada for



GLAXO WELL-COME will make at least £3 billion of profit

this year out of the sufferings of

The company has aroused the occasional ire of Aids campaigners for charging for its AZT compound, but this is an isolated

case. Pharmaceuticals com-

panies may not be the most popular around, but there is no

serious ideological opposition to their right to turn a profit.

Any local health trust, how-

ever, would blanch at the mere mention of the "p" word and must these days avoid all men-

tion of its near neighbour in the

It is an odd dichotomy, but we have such utopian expectations

of the caring professions. Drug

of the caring processions. Companies may make money.

Private medicine occupies an

uncomfortable position some-

where in the middle, but the

private medical insurers have always had the fig-leaf of being provident mutual companies.

They may charge for cover, but

such charges balance costs and there are no profits.

Once PPP, one of the three big mutual companies providing pri-vate insurance cover, does

demutualise, it will have to cope with both "p" words, and the resulting political stink.

dictionary, privatisation.

but doctors must not.

millions of people.



ink leaves

disappoints

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dend payments made by Ly-ons before the sale is finalised and a £3.8 million payment for Lyons Irish Enteprises, the

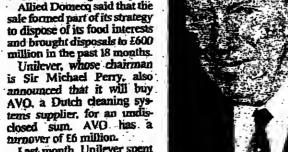
holding company.

Lyons Irish Holdings is the

price once the deal is complete. The final price is dependent on a reduction for any divi-

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

turnover of E6 million. Last month, Unilever spent £360 million on the acquisition of Diversey, a Canadian detergent producer.



the announcement.

Pennington, this page). Cellrech shares fell 24 per cent, from 681p to 518p, triggering a wave of selling in the sector. Chiroscience dropped 15p to 284p and Scotis Holdings 7p to 603p. Many biotech shares had been trading close to their SZ-week highs before Celhech said the drug.

BIOTECHNOLOGY shares

slumped yesterday after

Celltech reported that the com-

pany and Merck, its financial

sponsor, had scrapped the

development of a once-promis-

ing asthma drug (See

Perry: Dutch acquisition | known as CDP 840, "did not

Forte celebration ends up as a wake

did not understand that they no longer had any influence over the company's affairs and left looking confused. However, it was not a total loss for everyone. Some did what they always do al shareholders' meetings and made a beeline for the coffee and biscuits. One old gentleman said: "I don't like Granada and it took me a long time on the Tube to get here, but it beats sitting

Heading for a healthy future

number of potential buyers: those outside such screenes, or potential buyers: those outside such screenes, or panies contracting out their staff.

Demutualisation will bring its more terms of capitalwhether freestanding or part of a bigger group, would look un-comfortably like an American ambulance-chaser to some and that is before executives start

cashing in their share options. Flotation is an option now because the private health insurance industry is in rather better shape than a few years ago, when several of the mutuals ago, when several of the mutuals nearly went bust. The problem was the frequency of trivial claims, and the tendency of patients with pre-existing complaints to sign up shortly after these have been diagnosed.

The solution was a more rigorous weeding out of the latter, and a more restrictive approach to problems treated.

proach to problems treated.

There are currently approaching seven million people covered by private health insurance, and the majority did not sign up for it resulting political stink.

If the insurer is quoted on the their terms of employment, stock market, it will not be for under a company scheme. The

raising and the cutting of cumbersome historic ties with the medical profession. But imagine the scene a few years hence. The chief executive of PPP is grilled by City analysts at the annual results. How many medi-cal staff have been laid off? Is there scope for further cuts in the

Up like a rocket, down like a stone

services provided? How much

have costs per patient fallen? It-

all seems a long way from the Hippocratic oath.

If the rapid rise in biotechnology shares last year was baffling, yesterday's equally rapid collapse was entirely predictable. Cellech reported that it and Merck, its financial sponsor, had scrapped the development of a once-promising asthma drug, known only as CDP 840. Celltech investors fled in droves, and the



☐ Hippocratic oath doesn't preclude making a profit ☐ Taking stock of the biotech boom ☐ EU offers a poor role model

shares lost a quarter of their value within minutes.

The City's savviest dealers should have seen it coming. Celltech and its rivals climbed throughout 1995 and went into overdrive in December, when British Biotechnology, the bestknown player in the sector, revealed positive results on the clinical trial of a cancer drug.

Celltech and the others did absolutely nothing to warrant their gains; they just had the good fortune of being part of the same industry and were swept along in the euphoria. Not long ago the phenomenally successful flotation of America's Netscape triggered the same hysterical buying of the fledgling Internet

mankind, and another to develop and market it. The tiny biotech companies are fairly good at the former but rarely have the financial means for the latter. It takes years of effort and hundreds of millions of pounds to bring a drug to market, and they cannot do it alone.

So Glaxo Wellcome, Zeneca and SmithKline Beecham could reveal at any time that their own rocket scientists have discovered dozens of razzle-dazzle compounds. They don't bother because a compound without a fully financed development plan is part to proches.

is next to worthless.

The biotech sector will survive yesterday's self-off. Good clinical trials from any of them will trigger a new wave of buying. So will the publication of encouraging circulars from brokers, who have their own reasons for starting the ball rolling again.

The industry, however, has a long way to go before it loses its casino image. The next rally, inevitably, will be followed by snother dramatic self-off. And so

Investors routinely forget that it will go on. For private investors, careful timing is the only compound and prove it can help guarantee of success. That, and

not being too greedy. Go East, young

THE great case against the Maastricht mentality was that widening the union to include former Communist states was more urgent and important. Not so, the anti-Maastricht Adam Smith Institute claims in a new report, The Eastern Market. According to the author, Michael Bell, a former Brussels

free-trader

groupie, the countries of Eastern and Central Europe would just prop up the EU's centralised bureaucratic and protectionist tendencies. They would be better off aping Hong Kong's open-trade practices in their own outward-looking free-trade area. In any case, the EU will not easily or rapidly let them in.
All this is undoubtedly true,

but another great lost opportunity of 1989. It would have been better if Austria, Sweden and Finland had stayed out of the EU, instead expanding their rump free-trade area to the East. This could have encompassed Hungary, Poland, Czecho-slovakia and former Soviet states faster in a less demanding, more honest, half-way house.

Austria et al. had other en-

Austria et al had other en-trenched priorities, and the EU marketed itself skilfully. Poland. Hungary and the Czech Republic judged, as Greece, Spain and Portugal once did, that joining the EU was the best option to guarantee their new democracy.

In doing so, they opted, as so many do, for a chance at the lottery rather than the solid progress earned by virtue. Sadly. they have not won and the political lure conceals nasty economic surprises.

Confidence trick

☐ FROM the Department of Coincidental Statistics comes the news that the housing market is, indeed, on the up again. This is the same housing market that was going to hell in a hand-basket before the last Budget and needed massive government assistance. Now, we hear from the Halifax of "a gradually rising trend for the past six mooths". If appeals to the Government fail, you can always fall back on some recovery in confidence ... a recovery that can always be stoked by news of

INDE

Trading places: John Bishop, chief executive of Trade Indemnity, with Jean Lanier, director-general of Compagnie Financière, yesterday

Trade Indemnity succumbs to £177m takeover by French

TRADE INDEMNITY, the holders will also get a second credit risk insurance company, interim dividend of 1.4p a share. The company's shares yesterday agreed to accept a rose 24p yesterday to close at 97p, marching the offer price. The takeover would mean takeover bid worth £177.3 million from Compagnie Finan-

oo leading export credit com-

panies remaining in British hands. The Government sold

the short-term operations of

the Export The Sts Guarantee

Department to NMC, a Dutch

company, in 1991. John Bish-

op, Chief Executive of Trade

Indemnity, said: "We are not

becoming French. We are

creating a major international

group. What is important is

Unilever in Irish tea deal

market leader in Ireland's £40

million a year tea market. Ireland has the highest per

capita tea consumption in the world, at 3.2 kilograms a year.

the quality of the service."

cière SFAC of France. Commercial Union, the Guardian Royal Exchange; Munich Re and Swiss Re, which together own 53 per cent of Trade Indemnity, have accepted the 97p share offer and can only change tack in the case of a higher offer, which

analysts thought unlikely. The terms represent a 33 per cent premium on the 73p closing share price on Wednesday. Trade Indemnity share-

UNILEVER, the detergents

and foods company, has con-

tinued its buying spree with

the Irish arm of Lyons, the tea

Unilever said that it was

buying the 75 per cent stake in

the company from Allied Domecq, the drinks company.

A cash offer will be made for

remaining shares at a similar

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

The NMC operation now controls about 35 per cent of the UK credit insurance market, concentrating on the ex-port side, while Trade Indemnity controls some 44 pec cent, predominantly domestic but with a growing presence in the export market. Trade Indemnity issues its 1995 results on February 16 they will reflect the 1992 underwriting year — and is confident of good figures. Pre-tax profits in 1994, for the difficult 1991 underwriting year, were £5 million. As the credit risk insurance business tends to follow the performance of the economy as a able to improve its ability to whole, analysts expect Trade Indemnity's 1995 results to be more than £20 million.

Trade Indemnity would keep its own name, and Mr Bishop said he did not expect any job cuts. Compagnie Financière SFAC, the holding company, will have a new, "more international" name he said. He will join the expanded group's executive committee, along with Paul-Henri Denieuil, managing director of the French group, and Jean Lanier, its director-general. . Mr Bishop said he hoped the expanded group would be

provide services to multinational clients, helped by the sharing of commercial data and the joint development of information technology.

The French group is the largest export credit insurer in France, with AGF, the French insurer, holding the biggest stake - 49.9 per cent. It owns a controlling share in COBAC, Belgium's leading credit insurer, and a 17 per cent interest in COFACE, the French state-controlled export credit insurer.

reach the level which Merck and Celitech believed to be

achievable and necessary in

order to represent a significant

therapeutic advance." Merck had given Celltech £7.5 million

British Biotech, the largest company in the biotech sector,

was swept up in the selling but

managed to raise £47.5 million

yesterday from the subscrip-

tion of shares under warrant.

Holders of almost 9 million

warrants subscribed to new

shares at 525p apiece, repre-

senting 99 per cent of the

warrants on issue. The shares

closed at 2113p, down 10p.

since 1994 to develop it.

Biotech shares hit as

Celltech scraps drug

Tempus, page 24

name change BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY WELSH WATER proposes PLANS for a gas link between

Welsh Water

plans a

to change its name to Hyder

Welsh for confidence after the takeover of South Wales Electricity to form Britain's second super utili-

ty (Pennington, this page). While the water and electricity businesses will continue to trade under their old names to avoid customer confusion, the entity that controls both will be Hyder. The super utility formed from North West Water and Norweb electricity was named United Utilities.

Welsh Water, which must secure shareholder approval for the change of name, said: Welsh Water's philosophy is to provide a quality of infrastructure and service which earns the confidence of its customers.

Welsh Water's offer for Swalec became uncondi-

Gas-link design is overhauled after protests

the UK and the Continent have been overhauled after a stream of protests in north Norfolk.

A planning application for the connection, which is being developed by a group of energy companies led by Brit-ish Gas, provoked environmental anger with proposals to build surface works on farmland next to British Gas's plant at Bacton. The application was rejected by North Norfolk District Council.

The new scheme, which will go to the council today. involves building the terminal within British Gas's existing plant, so no extension of the gas complex will be necessary. The interconnector consortium had originally ruled out such an option because it felt

network at Bacton, from which British Gas serves south-east England. The consortium says that engineering innovations have now overcome such risks, Dr Philip Nolan, managing

director of Interconnector, said that the new plans should appease the "under-standable concerns" of local people about the environmental impact of a standalone site for the pipeline, which will run 150 miles to Zeebrugge, Belgium. He said: "We recognise that the new proposal is still subject to planning approval, but we believe that it address-es the wishes and concerns of local representatives and

Dr Nolan said that the scheme would run on schedule, with the first gas due to disturb the present pipeline ning approval is granted.

The High Court of Ireland

1996 No 8 Cos Ct 5

LIFETIME ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

AND IN THE MATTER OF WINDSOR LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED AND IN THE MATTER OF

THE ASSURANCE COMPANIES ACT 1909, THE INSURANCE ACT 1989 AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (LIFE ASSURANCE) FRAMEWORK REGULATIONS, 1994.

TAKE NOTICE that a Petition has been The Petition is to be heard on 26 February 1996 at Scheme providing for the transfer to Windsor person or by counsel or solicitor. Life Assurance Company Limited of the rights Any person who intends to so appear, and any Kingdom branch and for other ancillary relief.

Copies of the Petition, the Scheme and either of the solicitors named below. actuaries' reports thereon (including a report Copies of a circular containing a statement of the until 23 February 1996.

presented to the High Court of Ireland seeking 11 o'clock in the forenoon at the Four Courts in the the sanction by the Court under section 13 of City of Dublin and any person who may be entitled the Assurance Companies Act 1909 of a to be heard may appear at the time of hearing in

powers obligations and liabilities of Lifetime policyholder who objects to the Scheme but does Assurance Company Limited under the policies not intend so to appear, should give not less than of life assurance written by it through its United two clear days prior notice in writing of such intention or dissent, and the reasons therefor, to

by an independent actuary) may be inspected nature and an abstract of the terms of the Scheme at the offices of Lifetime, the Bank of Ireland and the full text of the actuaries' reports referred and Windsor Life set out below during their to above will be furnished to any policyholder of usual business hours from 5 February 1996 either company requesting the same prior to the making of an order sanctioning the Scheme.

Dated the 2nd day of February 1996 McCann FitzGerald, 2 Harbourmaster Place, Custom House Dock, Dublin 1 Solicitors for the directors of Lifetime (Ref:PAC)

A&L Goodbody, 1 Earlsfort Centre, Hatch Street, Dublin 2 Solicitors for the directors of Windsor Life (Ref:CLP)

Bank of Ireland:

 20/22 Berkeley Square, London 4 St Philip's Place, Birmingham

- 41 Castle Street, Liverpool

106 St Mary's Street, Cardiff

65 St Vincent Street, Glasgow

- Atlas Chambers, King Street, Leeds

35/41 John Dalton Street, Manchester

Offices at which documents may be inspected:

 c/o Bank of Ireland, 34 High Street, Slough

Donegail House, 7 Donegali Square North, Belfast Lifetime House, Earlsfort Centre,

Earlsfort Terrace, Dublin 2 67/69, South Mall, Cork

- Windsor House, Telford Centre, Telford

- Dukes Court, Duke Street, Woking, Surrey - 60 The Quey, Waterford, Co Waterford

Registration Department, Callender Street, Belfast 11/15 Strand Road, Derry, Co Derry

- Eyre Square Centre, Eyre Square, Galway - Stephen Street, Sligo, Co Sligo 31 Church Street, Athlone, Co Westmeath

- The Parade, Kilkenny, Co Kilkenny

- Spencer House, St James' Place, London - 125 O'Connell Street, Limerick

It was also supposed to be Sir Anthony Tennant's first appearance as chairman. Sir Rocco Forie ceded that

moment When, on January 16, the company called an extraordinary general meeting to approve the sale of its roadside cateries to Whitbread, it was still confident that it could repel Granada's £3.8 billion hostile takeover offer. Yesterday's meeting would, in effect, have been a victory celebration.

BY ERIC REGULY

IT WAS supposed to be Forte's finest

role, in the heat of battle last month, to try to win support from institutional shareholders. Instead, the meeting was a melan-

choly affair - and extremely short. Forte had booked the Dauphin Dubarry room on the sixth floor of the Cafe Royal, in central London. It obviously expected a big crowd; the cavernous space has a capacity of 450 and goes for a minimum of £4,000. The 30 or so shareholders who showed up, most of them elderly, looked lost among rows of empty seats. Sir Anthony, tail

between David Stevens, legal director, and Alan Wheatley, a non-executive director. He seemed slightly embarrassed in the spotlights' glare.

Sir Anthony's speech was brief. In his softspoken manner, he told shareholders that Granada, the victor, now controlled the majority of Forte's shares and could do what it wanted. "Granada has wished the meeting to be adjourned," he said. "A poll on the resolution would be a waste of time ...

and slightly stooped, shuffled up to the I therefore propose that the meeting be blue-felt podium and took his seat adjourned, sine die." And that was it. Some shareholders

at home all day long."



Airtours finds a lift as Carnival comes to town

are hoping Airtours can bring a bit of sun into their lives soon by confirming that the US Carnival Corporation has taken a near 30 per cent stake. The Airtours share price

crept 6p higher to 436p on turnover of 534,000 shares in a market where shares are normally quoted in percels of 10,000. Whispers circulating in the Square Mile suggest an announcement is imminent. Last month Airtours said it

was in talks with Carnival about potential co-operation agreements. This followed months of speculation that Carnival was about to launch a full-scale bid for the fastgrowing Airtours, which is Britain's second biggest package tour operator.

It now seems Carnival is prepared to take a 29.9 per cent stake in Airtours as well as agreeing co-operation agreements. The speculators claim Carnival is prepared to pay up to 500p a share for its holding, valuing the entire group at £576 million.

There was a muted response to confirmation of the overnight cut in US interest rates. Brokers said much of it was already in the price. The reluctance of the Bundesbank to cut German interest rates also depressed sentiment.

In the event, an opening fall in the Dow Jones industrial average left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a fall of 6.5 points at 3,752.8 by the close. Total turnover reached 859 million, helped by further heavy dealing in Hanson, down 9p at 1933 p, where another 52 million shares changed hands.

International dropped 24p to £10.12 despite a denial of a profits downgrading from the company's broker, ABN Amro Hoare

Persistent bid speculation lifted Yorkshire Electricity a further 17p to 736p, for a two-day gain of 52p. There is talk of a bid of 800p a share from West Coast, the US utility group, valuing Yorkshire at

The news that Celltech had abandoned further trials of ment, after disappointing results from a series of Phase 2a studies sent the share price plunging 163p to 518p. The test had been carried out jointly with Merck, the US pharmaceutical group, its partner in the venture. The tests conclud-



ERF tumbled after giving warning on full-year profits

ed the treatment did not reach the level of effectiveness required and has saddled Celltech with milestone pay-ments and royalties of £31.5

The fall-out from Celltech hart the other biotechnology shares with Cantah Pharma-cesticals down 35p at 470p, Chiroscience 15p at 284p, and Cortecs International 22p at

£678 million and for 1997 from E763 million to £738 million. Other brokers had begun cutting their forecasts in the new year, worried by the impact of the increased competition and the petrol price war. J Sainsbury was down

3½p at 39lp. ERF Holdings numbled 60p to 182p after warning that a setback in second-half prof-

WPP Group, the advertising agency headed by Martin Sorrell, put on another 4p to a high of 176p. Pay day for Mr Sorrell looks as if it could come a lot sooner than expected. Under the terms of the deal struck, he has three years to get the share price op to 300p before triggering an estimated £25 million bonus.

222p. Grampian Holdings was steady at 122p. Bell Lawrie White, the broker, says that with the help of restructuring the shares could reach 200p within the next 18 months.

Tesco fell 64p to 292p as NatWest Securities joined the growing band of brokers who have begun downgrading their profit estimates. It has cut its forecast for the year to February 1996 by £9 million to

its would leave the full year significantly short of market expectations. The market had been looking for a final of about E3.5 million. The group blamed a drop in new orders during December and early January. An effort was now being made to reduce debt and to find an alternative source of long-term funding.

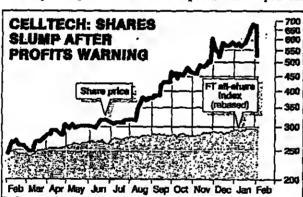
Another profits warning left Vibroplant, the specialist

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Series PebMay



plant hire group, nursing a
fall of 11p at 86p. The group
said conditions had worsened
since first-half figures were
announced in November, and
this will be reflected in second-
half figures.

Cuthacks in Governm spending on the infrastructu and road building had hit i group's civil engineer

Unitech was static at 48 with Electrowatt, its bigg shareholder, continuing look for a buyer for its near per cent stake.

Better than expected inter-figures from Misys, the coputer software group, sent share price soaring 62p to 637p with pre-tax profits 71 per cent higher at £19.2 million.

The gold price staged a chart break-out as it climbed above \$410 an ownce, with traders forecasting that the next stop for the precious metal could be \$440. This also provided gold shares with

renewed impetus. Gains were seen in Americants were seen in American Gold, 134p to £69.84, Grootviei, 7p to 239p, Randfontein 19p to 582p, Stillontein 8p to 90p, and Vaal Reefs 169p to £68.19.

The building sector attracted institutional support in the belief that interest rates are set to fall and house prices rise during the next six months. Blue Circle rose llp to 355p. Redland 4p to 403p, and Rugby 3p to 115p.

opened a touch easier with the overnight cut in US interest rates apparently already taken into account by institutional investors. But early losses were quickly wiped out partly helped by a weaker than expected US purchasing managers index and the latest jobless numbers.
The failure of the Germans

to cut rates also dampened In the futures pit, the March series of the long gilt finished five ticks better at £1101932 as a

total of 67.000 contracts were At the longer end of the cash market. Treasury 8 per cent 2013 rose £1s to £1021 is, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 finished a £1041316.

□ NEW YORK: Shares traded lower at midday but the overall market was showing resilience after five consecutive record closes. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 18.06 at 5,377.24.

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	Hong Kong. Hang Seng 11362.50 (+3.10	
	Amsterdam: 503.74 (+0.36	
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	Frankfurt: 2459.26 (-10.88	
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New York (midday):

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Berkeiey Gp n/p (435) 86 Eleco Holdings n/p (28) 5 Oxford Mi n/p (235) 104 Persona n/p (225) 44 Western Sei n/p (14) 3	•

September 1995 Contraction of the Contraction of th	
RISES:	
Trade Indemnity	970 (+240)
Rademec	08n (+12n)
Hampden Group	07n (411n)
Siem Circles	407- (+ 17)
Misys	03/p (+04p)
Mose Bros	683P (+48P)
Wintrust	295p (+20p)
Sherwood Comp	175p (+10p)
API	600p (+33p)
General Cable	189p (+10p)
Quadrametic	2240 (+110)
Boosey Hawkes	568o (+250)
Turodis Elec	303p (+11p)
Blue Circle	3550 (+11n)
Oritisme Int	4250 (112m)
W	3040 (1.101-0)
Danie ()	ומרטו דן מרסט
Bank Org	4/4P(+13P)
" emin y europa	420p (+10p)
Swire Pacific	586'ap (+12p)
emeli Elect	687p (+21p)
FALLS:	
	182p (-80p)
Caltach	518p (-163p)
Sharedard	200 (-110)

Closing Prices Page 27

Chiroscience.

2220 (-22p) 180p (-12p) 470p (-35p)

. 284p (-15p) . 945p (-20p)

Fighting on the forecourt BIG oil has for years watched passively while the grocers stole their petrol retailing business and it was only a matter of time before they retaliated. The oil majors have only them-selves to blame; decades of indifferent marketing has led the public to the correct conclusion: that petrol is a commodity, differentiated only by price and the dinginess of the place where With new fascias and fancier forecourts, the majors are fighting back and the grocers should be worried at news that Esso is determined to match them on price. The margin on prices at the refinery gate is wafer thin so oil companies desperately need successful retail

350 1865.8 (-2.2) Surporack 100 1570.74 (+11.20)	earn nuie from pen
-Share 18022 -1.75 Financials 1941.6 -1.65 Ministrest 115.85 -0.22 1.5ecs 95.25 -0.02 15 -1.5ecs 95.25 -0.02 15 -1.5ecs 95.25 -1.5ecs -1.5ec	Misys MANAGERS of the merged Hanson convorse than take a
a Mark 22597 (-0.0121) get Index 26.6 (-0.3) f England official close (spm) 1.1976 1.507 Dec (3.2%) Jun 1987=100	Misys, the compute ware company, for on how to run a focused company. Ke max, himself a
149.6 Dec (3.0%) Jan 1987=100	alumnus has ranidle

SKILLS, OUT WILL A IN
tighter focus.
· Misys concentrates on
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dustries. ACT, a £193 mill
purchase last year, has t
ded in well, in spite
market concern at the ti
and contributed most of
71 per cent jump in profit
the half year. Mr Lon
talks bullishly about a stre
second half that should
full-year profits of about

Trade Indemnity THE profit record of Trade Indemnity tells a tale of a

	cyclical market, and the 33
3186	per cent premium being of-
	tered by SFAC for the com-
(+24p)	pany suggests that the
(+130)	market is peaking. However,
(+11p)	the largest French provider of
(+82p)	credit reckons credit insur-
(+48p)	ance is becoming increasing-
(+20p)	ly international and therefore
(+10p)	wants to join forces with
(+33p)	Trade Indemnity.
(+100)	Both companies are target-
(+11p)	ing multinationals which de-
(+25p)	mg minimatanas winti te-
(+11p)	pend on their credit insurers
(+11p)	for reliable and speedy infor-
(+130)	mation. That means invest-
1000	ment in expensive
(+130)	information technology, fa-
(+10p)	vouring larger groups.
(+12p)	Big bad-debt provisions
(+21p)	hurt Trade Indemnity during
	sween and marginital distant

believe 1995's pre-tax profit. which is based on 1992 underwriting, should be about 20 million, compared with just £5 million in 1994.

SFAC's £177 milion offer looks generous compared

with Trade Indemnity's net assets of just £56 million in 1994, but its NAV should continue to grow as the bad debts gradually fall out of the picture. Major institutional shareholders - with 53 per. cent of the vote - have already accepted the SFAC offer, and the 33 per cent premium should be enough to keep the rest happy. Even if Trade Indemnity has another two good years before the cycle turns, investors are safer selling today.

manageable earnings multi-

Again Hanson-like, acqui

sitions are behind the Misys

motor. Profits from existing

ses actually fell over

ple of 15.

Regent Corp Johnson, its deputy chair-man, and Carl Turpin, its

chief executive. The company also revealed that £1.4 million, a sum equal to half of the housebuilder's market capitalisation, has gone through write offs or

provisious. Shareholders will have few qualms about raising their

draw for the stores, they said — but, for Tesco and Sainsbury, volumes are so large they now earn big bucks. Grocers have a competitive advantage unlike the oil companies, they pay no rent, and NatWest Securities reckons that Tesco earns about £70 million from its 245 sites. Those profits are now under threat.

Tesco's margin on a 53p litre of unleaded petrol is probably about 3p, suggesting that a small price reduction could wipe out the grocer's profits. In response to Esso's threat, Tesco affirmed its commitment to remain competitive, but, significantly, the greer has refrained so far from retaliating with a price cut. With sales growth slowing and greery margins slimming. Tesco can ill afford losses on the forecourt. The greer may therefore be tempted to give some volume back to big oil to There was a time when grocers claimed to tempted to give some arm little from petrol retailing — merely a preserve its profits.

ould do look at cvin Lo-Hanson £500 million business, using Hansoo-like acquisitive

outlets to show a profit on their downstream

red-of me, the ts at max ong million, putting Misys on a

error. A purchase poorly received by the market the half year. Questions have been raised about the compawould wipe out the gains of recent months, but a good ny's ability to grow without buy could see Misys reach stratospheric heights. Not for the faint-hearted. further corporate deals, and

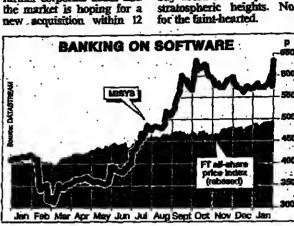
months. The roller-coaste

share performance suggests

a degree of nervousness

among investors and leaves

the company little room for

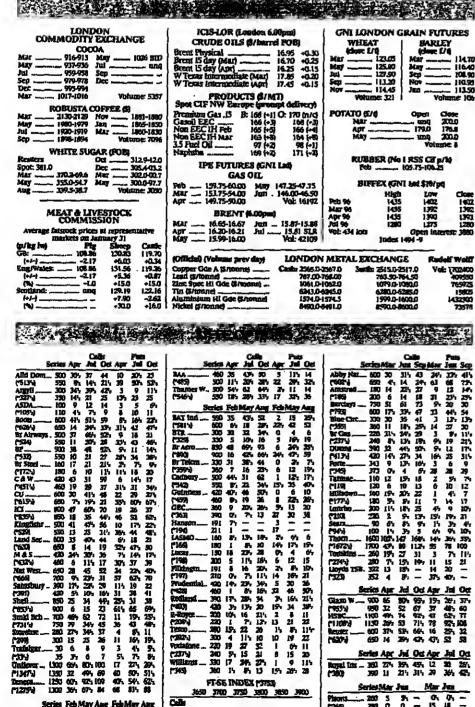


voices. Last December, they contributed an equivalent sum in a placing and open offer — the emergency share issue was intended to stave off a liquidity crisis caused by poor sales.

None of this came to light at the time of the placing last December.

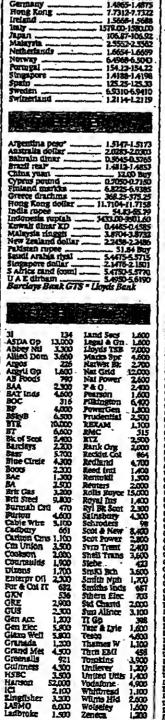
The £1.4 million apparent-y relates to the valuation of work in progress. Regent has changed its auditor from Stoy Hayward in London to Stoy Hayward in Rochdale. The Northern firm, a separate partnership but part of the national Stoy Hayward REGENT Corporation revealed yesterday the imments
ate departure of Chris. work of its London there is For shareholders, there is some hope. Regent is in talks with a private housebuilder which could lead to a reverse takeover. The recently de-parted directors joined the company via a similar route in 1993 so investors would be

wise to remain sceptical. EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED



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Crash worries Wall Street

SORRY to shock you while the Dow Jones hits fresh highs, but there been a nasty crash affecting

"Charging Bull", the 7,000lb 16-foot statue by Arturo DiModica, so loved of market folk and which, until 1989, was sited in front of the New York Stock Exchange, has been cruelly struck by a station

wagon and damaged.

Traders, fearing portents, are aghast that the statue, relocated on Broadway, was knocked 75ft south of its moorings and that the bull's front fetlock has been put out of joint.

A New York policeman noted that had "Charging.

Bull" been pushed just a few more inches, "a steel stanchion would have downsized the animal's manhood" The driver, who was unhurt but whose car

bumper was demolished, said his brakes failed. Flowers have been laid at the plinth to wish the bull, and the market,



"Might be asthma, but I think we've caught a cold"

Parc life blur

0.00

· .. ·

THE night with analysts held by Scottish & Newcastle at its CenterParcs village in Wiltshire (yesterday's City Diary) turned out to be some fun after all. A mystery voice tells me it was so good that after a 4am finish, 13 missed their morning train back to London, ten missed their lunchtime train, and one senior S&N man was thought to have been face down in a ditch. My (sober) contact assures me "I did learn a lot about the group". The shares rose 10p to 644p.

Bloomin' error

WHEN your bank sends flowers, you know their mistake is serious. A traince at a City law firm was somewhat non-plussed to receive a rather downmarket bunch of cream and peach carnations from her bank manager at Bardays. "Quite revolting." was her response. Even worse, the skinny bouquet arrived at work for all to see. The card read: "We apologise for the standing order error." Some error! She couldn't get access to her funds for three weeks, which is 20 days longer than the flowers are likely to last.

In the swim

THE Lord Mayor of London, a keen swimmer, is calling on as many as possible to take part in a City Dip. The Corporation of London's annual charity swim takes place at the Golden Lane recreation centre. Golden Lane. on March I and 2, in aid of the St John Ambulance Brigade. City teams are welcome. Last year, the event raised £7,000.

Knockdown?

AFTER British Coal's lengthy search for a buyer for CINMan, its pension fund management business hit a brick wall yesterday, the pressure will be on to find a quick fix. The company, which has steadily been selling all assets since privatisation, will be without a home from July - the date of a demolition order on its headquarters.

COLIN CAMPBELL of the immigration laws in this Airline Pilots Association ad-



A method is emerging from 'madness' of the rail gamble

his afternoon Chris Kinchin-Smith will attend the last board meeting of LTS Rail, the British Rail subsidiary that runs commuter trains between London's Fenchurch Street. Southend and Tilbury.

Later in the day, John Welsby, the BR chairman, will give a short talk at Southend, wishing him and his colleagues the best of luck in the brave new world of the privatised railways.

When the 0535 pulls out of Shoeburyness bound for London in the pre-dawn of Sunday morning it will be the first privately operated scheduled train on the line for more than 48 years.

It will miss the record books by 20 minutes as the 5.10 from Twickenham, operated by South West Trains, qualifies as the first privatised train in the country. Nevertheless, it will be an emotional moment for Mr Kinchin-Smith, who has headed LTS through the most turbulent three years on the railways for half a century, Mr. Kinchin-Smith is fizzing with ideas about how to transform the service once known as the "misery line" - radio communication between every driver and the control centre at Upminster, credit-card ticket

machines, even a satellite "global positioning system" so that every train on the line can be located to the centimetre. Autonomy gives him and his team freedom to experiment, while his personal financial commitment to the buyout means that far more than his next promotion is on the line if the franchise does not perform. In his hands and those of the other first fran-chise heads rests the future of the Government's boldest pri-

vatisation. Privatisacon remains a huge political gamble. Its complexity makes it a mystery to all but a handful of officials, politicians and City folk, and a sitting duck for its opponents. Few, if any, benefits have yet flowed through to the travelling public, though they are all too well aware of the absurdities. The railway industry subsidy has doubled. It could still prove the disastrously wrong sort of privatisation.

As the first privately owned trains begin operating, Jonathan Prynn sees cause for cautious optimism

And yet, and yet ... As the details of the new structure become clearer, the fiendish method in the madness is beginning to emerge. Impressive local managers, who for decades have laboured under the stifling corporatism of a state monopoly, are suddenly finding themselves liberated.

Investment plans that could see a transformation of chronically underfunded lines like the London Tilbury and Southend over the next decade, have been drawn up and costed. Proper financial accountability is being established for the first time since nationalisation. Performance contracts set up to provide incentives for the train operators, Railtrack and the maintenance firms should deliver improvements in service.

The detailed thinking that has gone into the new structure is astonishing: For example, every time a passenger train anywhere in the country falls three minutes behind its scheduled timetable, a miniinquiry is automatically triggered and "blame" for the delay attributed to the respon-

sible party.

If the operator is found guilty, passengers benefit through lower ocket prices. If Railtrack is to blame, the operators received a rebate on access charges. It sounds like a lawyers! paradise, but the system's architects are adamant it will work. Perhaps.

This year is the crunch. Although 32 former BR companies have already been sold off, raising more than £2 billion, it is the performance of the train operators and Railtrack that will determine whether privatisation is judged a success or failure.

The three franchises being launched this weekend, LTS Rail, Great Western (both awarded, to management teams) and South West Trains (won by Stagecoach), will be



Prescott favours return to public ownership

followed by four more in June. another two in September and at least two more later in the autumn. If ScotRail can resolve its problems with the Strathclyde Passenger Transport Authority, a total of 12 out of the 25 franchises, representing perhaps two-thirds of passenger revenue, will have been

tors by the year end. Railtrack is due to go to the stock market in May. For all Labour's attempts to intimidate the City and scupper the sale, the chances are that it will get under way. To pull the plug at this stage would be a political disaster of unthinkable magnitude. Once the flotation is a fact Labour's game is up. Railtrack is the keystone of privatisation and once in the hands of millions of private investors, the sell-off will become a legal and finan-

handed over to private opera-

cial nightmare to dismantle. . A range of policy ideas is still being considered by Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, although the range of options is rapidly narrow-ing. John Prescott, deputy party leader, who has headed a committee looking at railway policy, is said to favour taking back Railtrack into public ownership in reverse salami style - slice by slice -

in return for subsidy. The proposal begs questions. How would the Government buy back the shares? In the market, forcing up their value like a hostile takeover bidder? By making Railtrack issue new stock, diluting the value of small shareholders, including thousands of employees? And why would the Government want to pay twice, once in subsidy and again for the equity?

A similar Labour plan to take over the National Grid. thereby restoring government "control" to the electricity industry, was floated and eventually ditched before the 1992 election. Labour will argue that Railtrack is different because it will be the only subsidised private utility.

True, but that does not make

reversing the sale any easier. The idea also presupposes that the subsidy contracts carefully negotiated by franchise-bidders and Roger Salm-on, the franchise director, can be easily scrapped so that the subsidy is directed at Railtrack. Operators would certainly welcome the reduction in track charges that would accompany the confis-cation of subsidy, but in many cases would be left worse off.

The role of John Swift, the rail regulator, in the Labour railway system is also unclear. Although Labour would undoubtedly want to use his powers to restore public control over the industry, the Railways Act gives him a Crucially for potential fordegree of legal autonomy that

could frustrate their plans. Hanging over all the vari-ous fledgling schemes is the big question? Will Tony Blair wear it? Without the say-so of the party leader, the proposals remain pipe-dreams. Although Mr Blair has steadfastly stuck to his "publicly owned, publicly accountable" script to keep the RMT and Asle off his back, it is difficult to see a case for new Labour

reversing the self-off.

if it succeeds, privatisation will deliver higher levels of investment, private/public-sector partnership, stakeholder" employee share ownership and improved public services after 50 years of underperformance - all Labour aims. The case for yet another round of upheaval in an industry that has suffered permanent revolution for the past decade would be unsus-

Howard's way may lead to less regulation

Both sides in Australia's election have similar policies, says Rachel Bridge

The announcement of the Australian Federal election during the Australia Day long weekend did not please many. It did. however, delight Australia's business community, not only ending months of uncertainty but also coming amid a growing likelihood that the election — set for March 2 — could spell a change of government for the first time in t3 years.

With the latest polls showing a clear lead for John Howard, leader of the oppo-sition Liberal Party, political experts agree that Paul Keating has a lot of catching up to do over the next four weeks if he is to retain power. The perception in the markets is that a win for the coalition led by the Liberals would lead to a freer business environment combined with a more conservative

fiscal approach. Peter Munckton, an economist at Bankers Trust in Sydney. explains: "A coalition government is seen as being much more stock market friendly. For a start, they

are going to be tough on inflacon, which is positive. They are also more likely to run a budget than a Labor government, a second for business positive. Together with the

fact that they are likely to encourage greater deregulation in the labour market by reducing union influence, it all adds up to greater busi-ness confidence."

eign investors, Mr Howard has also indicated that he intends to make the existing rules on foreign investment more transparent, and analysts believe that he is likely to show greater leniency towards takeovers and mergers too. In addition, Mr Howard has pledged to sell. off a third of Telstra. Austra: lia's national phone company, something which Mr Keating has so far refused to contemplate.

The Australian stock market has not been slow to show its enthusiasm for a coalition government, rising 34.6 points in three days to a two-year high of 2288.5. It fell three points yesterday in profit taking.

Top of the activity list

have been shares in media stocks, which bave soared in the belief that a coalition government would relax the

present cross-media ownership rules - paving the way in particular for Kerry Packer. who controls the Nine Network television company, to bid for Fairfax. Australia's oldest newspaper group, without having to give up his TV holdings. Mr Packer, whose Publishing and Broadcasting Group has a 17 per cent stake in Fairfax, has made no secret of his desire to take control of the newspaper publisher, clashing publicly with Mr Keating a year ago over the rules that have so far prevented him from do-

The banking sector, too, has come under the spotlight, amid speculation that a coalition government might look more favourably at a merger of two of the country's leading banks and the takeover of some smaller ones. Shares in ANZ and Westpac, seen as the most suspectible targets, have soared, while shares in National Australia Bank, which owns Yorkshire Bank and Clydesdale Bank in Britain,

There is talk about a coalition being better

Detractors however argue that little of substance will change even if Mr Howard does win power on March 2

have risen in

the belief that it

could be a pos-

sible predator.

pointing out that the policies he has unveiled so far show a remarkable similarity to those of the incumbent Government. Indeed, some analysts argue that a coalition win could result in greater industrial unrest because they will be less able to get the co-operation of Australia's powerful unions than Akis Harabopoulos, chief

economist at GIO Australia. said: "There's a lot of simifarities, between the two. They both want to see the underlying inflation rate between 2 and 3 per cent, they both want to see the budget deficit improved and they both want to see Australia becoming more productive.

One Sydney economist agrees, saying: "There is much talk about a coalition government being better for business, being more stock market friendly. But, in terms of the broader economic policies and the economic outcomes, both sides have very similar views. It's a bit like Tweedledum and Tweedledee."

SELECT INDUSTRIES PLC

CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT



The Directors of Select announce that for the six months ended 31st December 1995 the unaudited cons loss amounted to £55,000 on turnover of £456,000 compared with a loss of £931,000 on turnover of £597,000 for the six months ended 31st December 1994. Included in this loss are non-recurring costs of £56,000 for further restructuring of the Group's operations and for the capital reduction which was approved by sharebolders in

As previously reported to shareholders, the Directors have taken a number of initiatives to improve the Group's performance by focusing on higher margin sales and by cutting operating and overhead costs. AirBoss Ground Engagement Plc, Select's UK operating subsidiary, is now sourcing the majority of its rubber tyres at favourable prices from the new facility in Michigan USA of its affiliate company, AirBoss of America Corp. The improved results for the six month period reflect the successful implementation of these initiatives.

At 31st December 1995 liquid assets of the Select Group amounted to £5.1 million, principally comprising cash of £4.7 million. In view of the Company's sound financial position and its available capital tax losses of £86 million, the Directors are investigating suitable acquisition prospects for the Company. Simon Raynaud

1st February 1996

INTERIM STATEMENT

Unauquea ressuis jor ine	six months ended 31st Dec	ember 1995
	Six Months	Six Months
	Ended	Ended
	31st December 1995	31st December 1994 Restated
	£'000	£.000
Turnover	456	597
Cost of sales	(350)	1526)
Gress profit	106	71
Net operating expenses	(438)	(1,093)
Operating loss	(332)	11,022)
Interest receivable	163	101
Amounts realised on disposals		
(written off) of investments	114	(10)
Loss on ordinary activities before taxation	n (55)	(931)
Taxation		-
Loss attributable to shareholders	(55)	(931)
Loss per share	(0.02)p	(0.41)p
Interim dividend per share		

The financial information included in this document does not comprise statutory accounts within the meaning of Section 240 of the Companies Act 1985. The statutory accounts for the year ended 30th June 1995, on which the auditors have given an unqualified opinion, have been filed with the Registrar of Companies. The interim financial information is unaudited.

The comparative figures previously reported for the half year to 31st December 1994 have been restated in accordance with the change in accounting policy in respect of goodwill disclosed in the stantory accounts for the year ended 30th Inne 1995, In years previous to 30th Inne 1995, goodwill was, depending on the circumstances, either taken direct to reserves in the period of acquisition or capitalised and americaed over its useful economic life. In the year to 30th June 1995 this policy was revised to take goodwill directly to reserves in the year of acquisition. As a result of this change in accounting policy, the comparative figures previously reported to 31st December 1994 have been restated to reflect the adjustment necessary to cluminate the amortismon charge in the six months to that due on goodwill previously capitalised of £86,000.

Companies will only grow if treated as customers by DTI league of "world class". This is act on the hard lessons we

in bureaucracy.

Sir. The independent Pilots future that would have been

to finally reject British Airways' application for work incree and industry.

reaching consequences for the

open to exploitation by un-

scrupulous organisations, to

the detriment not only of the

aviation sector but the whole

infrastructure of British com-

From R.J.Jackson Sir, In today's fiercely contest-ed markets, the constant drive to improve competitiveness is engraved in our minds. Having survived a very severe play. If it is truly the DTI's recession, an achievement in mission to help us to gain itself, as manufacturers we well understand the need to be responsive to market conditions and to be both efficient and flexible in our operating methods. Whilst benchmarking may

provide useful targets for some small manufacturers to aim at, the vast majority of uswill struggle to find the resources and expertise to gain promotion to the premier

Decision over work

permits good for UK

From Mr Mark Pearson

Association (IPA) is both delighted and relieved by the

decision of the Department for

Education and Employment

where the DTI and their have learnt. So we trust that in agents, the training and enterthe third White Paper anprise councils and Business nounced by Heseltine, the DTI will be more responsive Links have such a vital role to to manufacturers' needs by introducing both practical and promotion, then we must be flexible measures which will treated as their customers and they should start benchmarking their own performance. The results will disappoint them as they fail to reach much of their market and Director. many of the companies they do contact find their pro-Forum: grammes are prescriptive or

encourage more of us to achieve promotion to "world Yours faithfully, R.J.JACKSON, South London Manufacturers Managing director,

inappropriate and immersed 172 St James's Road,

The DTI would do well to Crovdon. dreds of qualified British pilots currently unemployed. More importantly, it would have set a precedent with far

> time now. Yours faithfully, Director. Independent Pilots Association.

resolutions, rather than aiding and abetting BA, then this illconceived scheme would have been rejected from the beginning, with the consequences that 30 additional British pilots could have been flying on line for some considerable MARK PEARSON.

Old Rectory. The Priory. West Sussex.

Bank rates are root of decline

From Mr Richard Whatmoor Sir, I noted with astonishment Lloyds Bank interest rates notification for business customers on January 3. From this it would appear that the "thoroughbred bank" is lending to small businesses at 13.2 per cent while borrowing from depositors at about 3.5 per cent. Do we have to look any further for the root causes of our traumatic economic decline over the recent past, with the exception, of course, of the excellent concurrent performance of bank profits? Yours faithfully, RICHARD WHATMOOR. 43 Lancaster Rd, London W1.

Gloomy over growth

From Mr Derek Bloom

Sir, Pennington believes that "the annual bill for basic state pensions will rise from £26 billion to £42 billion" by 2030. a compound growth of only 1.4 per cent per year. He must have a very gloomy view of the prospects for economic growth for that to be unsustainable. Yours faithfully,

permits for USAir pilots.

Had the application been approved, such a decision tempts to persuade the DEE would have made a mockery otherwise. Had the British Haywards Heath. DEREK BLOOM, 47 Old Church Street, SW3. country, with the many hun-hered to its own members'

Oil and gas output at ten-year record

BY MARTIN BARROW

BRITAIN'S oil and gas production reached its highest level last year, according to the Royal Bank of Scotland's oil

and gas index.
Oil output grew 2 per cent
during the year to the highest level for more than a decade. Average daily production reached 254 million barrels per day (bpd), just below the previous highest level of 2.59 million barrels, which was reached in 1985. During the

year as a whole the UK's North Sea oilfields produced 927 million barrels, equivalent to 360 gallons for every man, woman and child in Britain.

Britain's gas output rose even faster, increasing by 8 per cent to a record high. This was achieved despite subdued gas demand for heating for much of the year.

The upsurge in output was assisted by the growth in demand from new gas-fired

equivalent of 77 million bar-

Peak trading month for Petroleum Exchange

VOLATILE oil prices, caused by the cold snap and short stock position in northern Eorope, onderpinned a record month of trading on the International Petroleum Exchange in Loodon in January (writes Martin Barrow). A total of 1.69 million con-

tracts were traded, an increase

rels per day, compared to total world oil consumption and production of 70 million barrels per day. Brent crude oil futures trad-

ed almost 1.1 million contracts last month, an increase of 10 per cent over the previous record set in January 1995 and the first time that more than

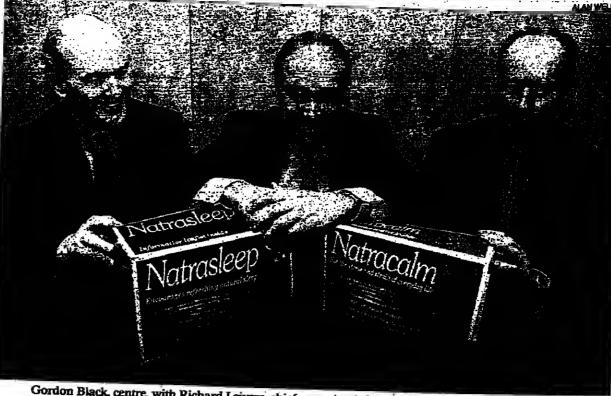
power stations and because of the extremely cold period in December. Gas production during the month was 34 per cent higher than one year ago, helped also by the availability

of cheap gas supplies.

Mark Shea, the Royal
Bank's energy economist. said: These figures confirm the success of the oil industry in using new lower cost tech-nologies, which make it possible to develop successfully the new smaller fields. They also reflect the suc-

cess of the industry in extending the life of existing fields and recovering a much higher proportion of their overall reserves than was originally thought possible. I believe that this success will continue and that we will see further pro-duction increases both this year and next." The index shows that North

Sea oil output was down again in January by nearly 39,000 bpd to an average 2.62 million bpd. But gas production rose again to the highest level since the index was launched in



Gordon Black, centre, with Richard Leivers, chief executive, left, and Stephen Lister, finance director

Sales raise interim at Peter Black

PETER BLACK, the toiletries and cosmetics company that supplies Marks and Spencer, achieved an 8.1 per cent increase in profits in the first half of the current year (Martin Barrow writes). At the pre-tax level profits eased to £8.2

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rable results for the previous year included a £627,000 surplus from the sale of a discontinued operation.

Group turnover was almost un-changed at £69.3 million, compared with

per cent from 10.9 per cent. Gordon Black, chairman, said: "We remain confident that the current progressive trend can be maintained."

The interim dividend rises 8.7 per cent to 1.37p a share from 1.26p, to be paid April 30. Earnings were 10.13p a share (9.52p). The shares rose 3p to 275p.

ICI plans expansion and jobs

By Our Business Staff

ICI is to invest £60 million in building a new melinex polyester film plant alongside its existing plants at Dumfries, creating 50 permanent jobs in the area and a further 200 during construction.

The plant will add an extra 20,000 tonnes a year to the company's existing world capacity of more than 100,000 tonnes. The plant should come

on stream during 1997 and will mainly supply the packaging industry.

Separately, ICI has agreed an outsourcing deal worth more than £75 million over five years with Origin involv-ing about 400 staff in the UK

and Holland.
Origin, in which Philips
Communications has an 82
per cent interest, will take over
ICI's mainframe and legacy applications and management of some other mid-range sys-tems, together with ICI's data centres at Runcorn, Cheshire and in Rozenburg in The Netherlands:

The agreement involves two ICI divisions — ICI Systems and TASC (Telecoms and Sys-tems Computing), which man-ages ICI's mainframe com-

of 16 per cent over the previous high set in November 1993. This represents the one million contracts have £69.9 million, but like-for-like sales were million from £8.4 million in the six been traded in a single month. up 6.8 per cent. Net margins on continuing businesses increased to 11.8 months to December 2, although compa-THE TIMES EXECUTIONS (CENTRE) You can eat out up to fourteen times at any of 350 of the finest restaurants in the country for just 45. What's more, from February 12 until the end of March, you can take up to five friends with you ach restaurant has been chosen from either The Michelin, AA Best Restaurant or Good Food guides is the details and your first token in tomorrow's Times Magazine. Box appent.

CHANGING TIMES

Profits warning " rocks ERF shares

BY MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in ERF Holdings. one of Britain's last surviving independent truck manufacturers, fell to a three-year low yesterday after the company gave warning that annual profits would be significantly below current forecasts.

ERF said that, despite a strong first half, order intake slowed markedly in December and January, forcing it to introduce short-time working at its plants. Industry analysts estimate that demand for

trucks has declined by about 40 per cent since the autumn.

Shares in ERF fell to 182p from 342p after the announce ment, with pre-tax profit fore-casts downgraded to just £1.6 million for the year to March 31, compared with the £2.3 million profit reported in the previous 12 months. The City had previously expected profits of about £2.6 million. ERF said, however, that order intake has seen some

recovery and the export busioess continues to improve, particularly in Africa.

Separately, the company is seeking alternative and additional sources of term finance. with new arrangements ex-pected to be in place within a few months.

Its principal banker has indicated that overdraft facilities are available to March 31. 1997, and a medium-term loan of £4 million repayable in January 1998. The profit warning was accompanied by de-tails of a restructuring of the company's interests in South

Dorbyl, a South African engineering company, is to take a 70 per cent interest in ERF South Africa (ERFSA). acquiring shares from the country's Industrial Development Corporation and the management. ERF's interest will fall from 56.1 per cent to 30 per cent.

Harrisons buys US company

BY OUR CITY STAFF

HARRISONS & Crostield, the chemicals and building materials company, has acquired Daniel Products an American speciality chemi-cals company, for about \$30

Daniels, based in New Jer-sey, develops and manufac-tures pigments and other chemicals used in paints and coatings. The company claims particular expertise in envi-ronmentally friendly water-borne and high solid content

In 1994 the company earned profits of \$3.1 million before interest and tax on turnover of \$24.3 million. About 30 per cent of sales are destined for markets outside the US.

H&C said its international

position would help Daniel to generate more sales, while it would gain from the acquired group's technological exper-tise. Bill Turcan, chief executive, said further acquisitions

Ocean sells * control of laboratories

BY OUR CITY STAFF

OCEAN GROUP, the industrial and distribution services company, will incur a £29 milion charge after selling a maj-ority interest in NET, its American environmental test-ing business, to its managers. NET's laboratories provide

analytical services to industry and public authorities. It has suffered because of a decline in demand for its services, after a reduction in federal support, resulting in intense price competition. In the first half, NET lost £300,000, following a loss of £2.8 million after exceptional

costs for all of 1994.

The management buy-out team is led by David Caspersen, president of NET. Ocean has sold 60 per cent of NETs equity for nominal consider-ation. Ocean has also provided in full against its remaining investment and for guarantees. This provision, of £12.5 million, is in addition to £16.5 million of goodwill previously written off

Australia buys on BankWest's debut

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE Bank of Scotland re-ceived an overwhelming seal of approval from Australian investors yesterday as shares in BankWest, its new acquisition, soared to a 26 per cent premium on its first day of trading on the Australian

stock exchange. Shares in BankWest, in which Bank of Scotland retains a 51 per cent controlling stake, rose 53 cents to A\$2.58 (£1.27), with more than 38 million shares changing hands. lan MacKenzie, chairman of BankWest, said: "I think the public demand for the stock reflects the confidence brought by the anchor shareholder, which has a great deal of expertise and

experience in banking." Yesterday's rise far greater than analysts had expected, values Bank of Scot-land's stake, which it acquired for a net A\$462 million (£229) million), at more than A\$580

which agreed to sell down 49 per cent of BankWest when it accounted the bank from the Western Australian government in December, had been forced to close the public share offer more than three weeks early and scale back allocations in the face of overwhelm-

ing demand. Fraser Campbell, Bank of Scotland's general manager for Australasian operations. said BankWest had produced outstanding results in the past few years and was now clearly one of the best performing

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### ##################################	Latin American 31.55 33.52 ± 0.22	UK Employ Cox 7:522 00:33 + 0.31 UK Employ Cox 7:522 00:33 + 0.31 Avertage 143:10 152:23 + 0.54 Dots 66.00 11:15 - 0.10 Evropeis 132:84 142:38 + 0.00 Ford Inserts 97:91 92:51 - 0.35	Total Prince Tota	M & Shi Pinhi 17,107 MD BP + 0 H7 Z01 - 4 h- kezim 271 0 772 201 + 2 t0 2 h - 1 h - 1 h - 2 h - 1 h -	-dx-leaver 24-10 22-20 - 179dx-leaver 24-10 22-20 - 179dx-leaver 24-10 22-20 - 179dx-leaver 24-10 22-20 22-20 199dx-leaver 24-10 22-20 22-	American 2018 381.71 + 1.85 0.77 - 40- Accoun 361.81 381.71 + 2.85 0.77 - Everysian Graft 17.22 18.47 + 0.02 0.77 - Everysian Graft 17.51 194.00 - 0.09 0.28 - For Everysian 172.15 170.621 - 0.09 - 40- Accoun 14.48 172.00 - 0.38	158 Leaf TRUSTS 51284 346 734 Amplies 28185 302.48 + 1.30	1 :::
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### BARRIGE FIXTO MANAGERIS LTD 1777 134 1407 1777 134 1407 Anny Cand Coran Anny Sand Cora Coranthus 5744 0 1874 4 0 100 Coranthus 5744 0 1874 1 105 144 Exam 2016 7 5540 1 107 140 Exa	四日 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	COVELL TYDING THE MENT FEE	0171 ME 9866 \$1000 Table 1	Sales Fundas 20178 10020 - 0.30 MAYPLINER IMPRESIDENT CO LTD 0177 407 5908	PAN UT MISSES LTD D771 155 1999 Evolution Evol	Euro System Cast Fall System - 0.05 0.28 Fall System 50 0.28 Fall System 50 0.28 Fall System 50 0.28 Fall System 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 5		1.71 1.71 1.29 1.42 1.42
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■ VISUAL ART. Francis Bacon by himself: an unknown self-portrait goes on show for

the first time



THEATRE 1 A musical set on Death Row? Yes, Fields of Ambrosia is as ghastly

as it sounds

THE



THEATRE 2 . but young Nick Grosso's Sweetheart delves subtly into

a world of loveless

bed-hopping



■ MUSIC

Fearless and triumphant: Thomas Quasthoff impresses in a challenging Wigmore recital

How good is the early self-portrait by Francis Bacon that has come to light after 66 years? And where was it found?

Face to face with young genius?

6 Bacon's

energy is

there in

awesome

abundance 3

yesterday, of an early selfportrait by Francis Bacon, who died in 1992, is undoubtedly a major event. The artist made sure that few of the pictures he painted before 1944, when he was 35, have survived. In that decisive year. Bacon completed his first triptych the enormously disturbing Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucificion. now in the Tate.

Much of the work he produced before then was destroyed by the artist. Indeed, only 14 of the pictures Bacon painted prior to the triptych are reproduced in Ronald

Alley's catalogue raisonné of the artist's ocuvre. They give a desperately fragmented idea of his youthful development, and not self-portrait.

That is what makes this new discovery so valuable. The painting is able as the self-

portrait Bacon exhibited in his er. Entirely self-taught, he always studio, with a substantial 45 guinea price tag, in November 1930. Paint-ed on a canvas board with pinholes in the corners, it is a small

work, but surprisingly powerful.
Viewed in near-silhouette against
a pale, freely broshed background, Bacon's purplish face looks like a boxer's after a bruising fight. His nose seems flattened. Both eyes appear narrowed to the point of closure, reduced to little more than sitts. His checks look raw, and his

lower lip strangely swollen. But the pummelled state of his flesh, possibly painted in part with his fingers, does not mean that the portrait lacks vitality. On the contrary: the éyebrows rise up in his body painted in searing scarlet. broad strokes, giving his face the exclamatory vigour of a clown in full make-up. Anarchic humour always played a vital role in Bacon's outlook, and the centre parted hair springs out, to left and right, with irreverent dynamism. Crude it may be compared with his later technical sophistication. But the energy is there in awesome abundance, and so is the readiness to twist a human face like rubber.

How does this discovery tally with the early Bacons that we already know? Some are Cubist studies of Painted Screens, showing the kind of elegant, decorative work produced by Bacon when he launched himself, around 1930, as an interior decorator and furniture designer. The Studio, an influential art magazine, reproduced several photographs of his Queensberry Mews studio in London. Here. against cool white walls, the 21year-old Bacon displayed Cubist wall-hangings, abstract rugs and gleaming metal tables and chairs. They all proclaimed his alle-

giance to the modern movement, and testified to his precocious talents as a designer. And indeed, for a while, Bacon prospered in that trade: R.A. Butler commissioned him to design furnishings for his dining

> But even at this stage, Bacon's real succeed as a paint-

claimed that art school would have destroyed his individuality. In these early years, though, Bacon's lack of professional training made him feel curiously uncertain about his ability. We will never know how many

pictures he produced during the 1930s, but one in particular stands out a Crucifizion, painted in 1933 for the leading collector Sir Michael Sadler. After buying an earlier. picture from Bacon, Sadler had sent him an X-ray photograph of his skull from which to paint his portrait. Bacon placed the skull next to a figure of Christ hanging

No such colour envenoms the newly discovered self-portrait. Nevertheless it does show that Bacon was already prepared, even at this early stage, to take astonishing and even alarming liberties with anatomy. The wonder is that he took so long to develop fully the uncompromising vision announced here with such raw, embryonic strength.

RICHARD CORK



Portrait of a discovery

I was only through perser-verence that the art writer Angus Stewart found Bacon's early self-portrait. As curator of the Francis Bacon and Henry Moore Exhibition at next month's Fine Art and Antiques Fair at Olympia, Stewart was doing research for the show when he traced the unknown work, painted in 1930.

"I knew there was a possibility of its existence, but Bacon hacked so much of his work to pieces you could never be sure that anything existed," says Stewart, who knew the artist over a period of 30 years. "When I managed to locale the catalogue for the November 1930 exhibition he held in his London studio, which lists a self-portrait, it

made me wonder. "In fact I thought I'd found one: but it turned out I was wrong. But I kept on: I was trying to find different things for this exhibition. I just kept looking and looking and looking. I continued to talk to people who said they knew nothing until eventually someone owned

The painting had been given by the artist to its present owner — a close friend of Bacon's — in the early Eighties. According to Stewart, it had been in Bacon's possesssion for the previous 50 years, although the artist was obviously not keen for the world to know of its existence. "When he was co-operating with Ronald Alley on the catalogue he edited in 1964 of Bacon's works at the Tate, the artist didn't mention it. He always maintained that his early works had been destroyed. I caught him out in telling another fib."

Twenty years later Bacon thought well enough of the self-

portrait to give it away. "People who own a Bacon painting have a very deep relationship with it. Certainly in this particular case the owner was a friend of Bacon's: it was a gift which was very personal to him and he didn't broadcast the fact of his ownership.

"In the end he volunteered and

brought the painting back into this country and said 'if you want it you kindness on his part. When actually saw the painting, I was banged. It was an amazing thing to see, a remarkable work.

The small self-portrait, measuring 152 in by Hin, will go on show to the public for six days from February 27 at the Olympia fair. After that it will be returned to its owner, who, adds Stewart, has no intention of selling it.

DEBRA CRAINE

THEATRE: Well-crafted study of the unwillingly promiscuous; musical about an executioner in shockingly bad taste

dred males to their Maker, Men misbehaving badly falls for his first female victim. Consider what happens when Jonas, played by Hig-gins himself, tries to delay her

Tick Grosso's awardwinning first play.

Peaches, enjoyably traced the misfortunes of a group of lads who wanted to think they were having success with women but patently weren't. The 20-year-olds in his new piece are managing the sex all right but not the love part of it, and this troubles them more than they

Lee's girlfriend Jane left him a year ago — for a man of 30, almost a pensioner — and he can't stop thinking of her. Davey has met a woman he does not instantly want to take to bed, because if something more serious is possible he would not want to upset his

Charlie, the sweetheart of the title, mucks up his longa tasting love affair with Toni, but the memory of what he has lost spoils his nights with her SHOOCSSOFS.

Charlie is the one whose bed-hopping adventures Grosso shows us, in a sequence of scenes across London, with the postal districts flashed on to the rear wall. He chats up Ruby at a chub in NWI, lolls on her bed in NW8, goes to NW6 to argue with Toni, meets Davey in NW3.

The easy flowing talk is totally convincing, with its repetitions and peppering of one-word sentences. Speeches of more than two sentences are Frare. Yet this is a formalised dialogue, ingeniously bringing facts and feeling out of the

chitchat. The play is beautifully acted too, with a fine sense of the cautious sussing-out that goes on when a couple are on the verge of becoming better acquainted but aren't yet sure they want to be.

Sweetheart ' **Royal Court Upstairs**

Precise shifts of feeling, excellently paced in Roxana Silbert's production, are traced by Kate Beckinsale's Toni as she watches Charlie's self-absorbed dance, and silently leaves. At the end of the play you teel that Nicola Walker's Kelly sound er's Kelly, equally watchful, will soon be making the same decision.

. Charlie is at odds with the work ethic, not wanting to commit himself to anything that changes the status quo. It sounds like laziness, and so it must be in part, a laziness to understand anything new, but Joe Duttine's performance shows an existential discontentment seething beneath the

charm. Most of the people he meets work in television, and Grosso makes him say that people have to watch television in order to find out what it's like. and should therefore do the same with life. Blocked by this "therefore" he can do nothing

Grosso never patronises his characters. Davey (Darren Tighe), as ill-informed about the wider world as Charlie, deranges more epitaphs than anyone since Mrs Malaprop, but the comedy is affectionate. With this subtly structured 90minute piece Grosso clears the hurdle of the second play. where so many young writers

JEREMY KINGSTON Todd; but he was wittily

THIS American musical isn't quite another "Springtime for Hitler", though there were moments in the first scene when I thought it might be. That is when an executioner called Jonas lures a podgy. bewildered boy into his rickety electric chair, mesmerises him with talk of the nectar and the women he will find in the next life, keeps up the comforting chatter as he straps his limbs and jams a steel band over his head, then throws the switch. "Oh, the fields of ambrosia,"

clean-living Southern ladies and gents, the lad passes happily to Kingdom Come. Probably we have too many feel-good shows in London right now. That does not necessarily mean we want a feel-queasy or feel-pretty-sickened one. It could, I guess, be argued that Sondheim took risks with taste in Sweeney

everyone cheerfully sings as,

half-masked by a chorus of

Death and a midden

> The Fields of **Ambrosia** Aldwych

reworking a 19th-century melodrama and, in the process, saying something serious about evil begetting evil. Call it good taste, call it the right tone, call it a basic moral sense: there is something missing in Joel Higgins and Martin Silvestri's tale of the genial executioner who, hav-ing amiably returned a hun-

another". How on earth to make such stuff palatable? Higgins and Silvestri's soludon is to give their show a folksy, jokey, awshucks feeling, supposedly in keeping with the period, which is 1918. No wonder they have problems assimilating the episode in which Gretchen prowls a cage festooned with men singing "hungry for you".
or the one in which the chief warder incants "I figure your

death by hiding Old Reliable.

as he calls his chair. Suspi-

cious guards set on the assembled convicts, viciously beating and throttling and

gouging out their eyes while

the executioner has gleeful sex

with Christine Andreas's

Gretchen on a platform above.

Or consider the scene in which

the local mortician, a forlorn

wimp whose smell of formal-

dehyde puts off women, keeps

watch while scores of prison-

ers are off copulating with six

exhausted whores. Grabbed

and raped by homosexual

convicts, he launches into a

soaring sob-song that begins

if it ain't one thing it's

sexually assaults her. Oddly, there is genuine talent on display. Silvestri can turn a breezy country tune. Higgins the librettist may have his limitations, but Hig-gins the actor has lots of laidback assurance, and Andreas has a fine, pure voice. Yel if it is easy to see why both principals have strong Broadway credits, it is hard to understand why they are over here. What next - a hanging, gassing, shooting or lethalinjection show? A new genre

ass is too good to fry" and

beckons: the Terminal Follies. BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



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Heart and voice of solid oak

THOMAS QUASTHOFF began and ended his London debut recital, fearlessly and uncompromisingly, in at the deep end. It takes a brave man to start with Schubert's big three heavyweights, Ganymed, Grenzen der Menschheit and Prometheus, and then to end with Der Tod und das Mädchen as his final encore. But Quasthoff is clearly a man of. determination, and both his temperament and his voice, a sturdy oak of a bassbaritone, seemed ideally

suited to these songs. Later he was to tackle the equally daunting dramas of the Erlkonig and Der Zwerg. this: after all, was Schubert's birthday and there were to RECTIAL Thomas Quasthoff Wigmore Hall

be no half measures. And yet Quasthoff's voice - one of grainy strength rather than of any particular natural beauty - does not always

touch the raw nerve of the listener, however powerfully it flexes its muscle. A heavy, thick-textured voice needs, perhaps, to project individual words with even closer focus, par-

ticularly in Schubert, whose

melodies and rhythms are so

minutely verbally activated.

where the piano accompaniment plays such a crucial part in stage-management. Quasthoff was not helped by Charles Spencer's less than meticulously imagined playing. One longed for a great subtlety of both timbre and movement: Quasthoff's voice, more of the earth than of the air, nevertheless found its way into the spirit of Der Musensohn rather more

Zwerg and Der Wanderer.

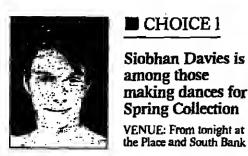
gers did. The broader sweep of melody and the harmonic fervour of Richard Strauss, in Zueignung, Heimliche Aufforderung, and Die Nacht,

nimbly than Spencer's fin-

Quasthoff. His skill in nourishing the long line and concentrating his own rapt seriousness of intent into each phrase came clearly into its own in this reper Although this programme

gave him little chance to show it, there is also, I suspect, a droll humour lurking somewhere there, and it surfaced delightfully in Hugo Wolfs Storchenbotschaft, the soog of the storks' visitation to the shepherd: a nod, a curtsy, and off they

HILARY FINCH Valerie Grove interviews found a true soul mate in Thomas Quasthoff, page 14



CHOICE 1

Siobhan Davies is among those making dances for VENUE: From tonight at

Spring Collection



CHOICE 2

Twelfth Night, with Edward Petherbridge, is back at the RSC

VENUE: In preview at the

Barbican from tomorrow

THE

احكنا من الاصاء



■ CHOICE 3

John Osborne's The Entertainer takes the stage in Birmingham VENUE: In preview at the Repertory



JAZZ

From Italy with charisma: Paolo Conte, advocate turned crooner. prepares for his Barbican date

LONDON SPRING COLLECTION: The South Bank Centre and the Place Theatrn offe a marathon weekend of some of the best of British contemporary dance There are established creators such as Jonathan Burrows, Siobhan Davies, Jonathan Burrows, Siobhan Daves, Shobana Jeyasrigh and Mark Baldwin alongside young hopefuls including Mark Bruce. The schoduling wisely allows time to get from one variue to propher.

another Place, Duta's Road, WC1 (0171-387 00311 Tonight, Spm; Sat. 1pm and Sun, 11am, South Bealt, SE1 (0171-960 4242) Purpol Roam Sat, 3 30pm; OEH Sat, 7 45pm, Sun, 3pm

TWELFTH NIGHT: Ian Judge's delightup production returns for a bivel season, with Edward Patherbindge as Maholio and Emily Joyce as Viola. Berblean, Sik Street, EC2 (0171-838 8891) Previews tomorrow-Wed and Feb.

RUBY TURNER It's standing room only for tonger's show by the sufry soul diva, currently celebrating the rolease of hor new album Restless Moods.

Jazz Carté, 15a Parkway, NW1 (071-916 6000) Doors open 7pm. ELSEWHERE

THE CHANGING ROOM: David Storey's lascinating play about a rugt league learn preparing for the weekly game. James Macdonald directs the third in the season of Royal Court

third in the season of Royal Court Chacues Dute of York's, St Martin's Larie, WC2 [0171-836 5122] Nove previousing, 7.30pm; mat Sat. 3pm. Opens Feb 7, 7pm. [6]

COMMUNICATINO DOORS

Angela Thorne recoms Ayoldoum's ingenious time-travel play, fleeing from a vengetule enemy via the cloops of a hotel that take her forward and back a couple of decades. Savoy, Strand, WC2 (0171-838 8888) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm; mats Wed and Sat, couple of decar

THE GLASS MENAGERIE: San Mendes's radiant production: Zoë Wansmaker and Cleire Skinner play mother and daughter; Ben Walden is

Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) Mon-Sat, 7 30pm, Sat, 3pm AN IDEAL HUSBAND Trumphant main MacAL Hussaanu Tumpram return for Poter Half's production of Walde's drame of political aleaze and counted. The star cast includes, Martin Shew, Arina Carterof, Pennie Downie, Theodere Royal, Haymarket, SWI (0171-930 8800) Mon-Sul 7,45pm, mets Wed and Sat. 3pm. (5)

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stophen Daldry's powerful production, with Nicholas Woodlegen as the all-knowing

NEW RELEASES

• FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II (PG) Steve Martin faces the patter o bry feel, Bland cornedy sequel, with Drane Keaton and Kimberty Williams Diane Kaston and Kimberly Williams
Director, Citarles Styer
McGMis: Biolian Street (0171-935 9772)
Chalses (0171-352 5096) Odeonas
Kensington (01426 914666) Luicester
Sq (01426 915683) Martille Arch (01426
914501) Swiss Collage (01426 914
038) UCI Winteleys (2) (0171-792 3332)

KATIA ISMANLOVA (18): Slight but passion, crime and punishment with MGM Plecadilly (7171-437 3561)

vanation on Victor Hugo's novel from Claude Lelouch, with Jean-Paul

Balmondo, Barbican (2) (0171-638 8891) Claphaen Pictura House (0171-498 3323) Odeon Konsington (01426 914666) Warner (2) (0171-437 4343) WITHINAIL & 1 (15) Hevival of Bruce

Potentian's quirty cult correctly, with Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann as would be actors miserable in the Lake District. MGMa: Futhern Road (0171-370 2636) Shaffinsbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) Rhzy (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT BABE (U)* Gionous, vivacious lamily lim about a sheep-herding pig, with a cast of talking animeto Emptre (0171-437 1234) MGMs:

WEEKEND CHOICE

and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Osbome's The Entertainer Transfers to Leeds in March Repertory, Certenary Square (0121-236 4455) Previews begin lonight, 7 30pm. Opens Feb 6, until Mar 2. & Also in farminghern, the Creative Jazz.

Orchestra returns fornorow with Mike
Gibbs's arrangements of Mark-Anthony
Turnage and Charles lives pieces. See

review, right. Advian Boult Hall, Conservatore (0121-605 6666) Sat, 7 30pm (5) HIGH WYCOMIEE A two-month season of Swan Dance \$5 opens with tonight's pramere of Crime Pictions by Arr. Dance Scorpany. The rest of February brings Addod's Islast Alincan show next week, followed by an operanspired double bill by Aletta Collins, RJC with its regigae-inspired piece, Captured, and the popular lap show Hot Shoe Shuffle The Royal Ballet and Matthew Bourne's amarcing Swan Lake round out the sense. round out the sense survey Street (01494 512000) Tonight and Set, Spm. Limit Mar 30 (5)

CINEMA GUIDE

Goot Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol +) on release screet the country

Swies Cottage (01426 914098) West End (01426-915 574) UCI Whiteleys () (0171-792 3332)

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15)

Ches point for a woment writer of construction of comments fiction Surprisingly sober and border characteristics (ID 71-369 1720) Gate (I) (10171-727 4043) Renoter (0171-337 2121) Screen/HIII (0771-335 3395)

LEAVING LAS VEGAS (18): Nicolas Cope drinks hyriself to death Stritong, intrinate drama from director Mike Figgs: With Elsaboth Strue Chipham Picture (0171-498 3323) MGMs: Fulhum Road (0171-370 2636) Haymarket (0171-339 1527) Switch Centre (0171-439 4470) Phoentix

Centre (0171-439 4470) Phoentx (0181-863 2233) Screen/Baker Street

(0171-935 2772) Warner (5) (0171-437

WATFORD. Glies Croit returns Kazen Hope's Foreign Lands to the stage. A new lodger moves in to a small farmly home but proves to herbour a homfic secret—a challing modern mystery that has won critical accolates. Not suitable for criticing under 15. Paleses. Clarendon Road (31923-225-871) Previews tonight, Set, 8pm: Mon, 7.45pm. Opens Tue, until Feb 24. LONDON GALLERIES

LIVERPOOL: Cerl Davis and the Reyal Liverpool Philhammonic Orchestra team up for a real treet of a performence tomorrow, the programme

performence tomorrow: the programmopens with Bernstein and Gershwin, tollowed by a screening of Charlie Chaplin's City Lights, with Davis's own

archestral score
Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3789) Sat, 7.30pm.

Barbicant Disghiley Creator of the Bailets Russes (0171-838 1141) . British Missessim: Hellenistic World Art and Culture (171-836 1155) . National Gallery Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . National Portrait Gallery: Rockard and Mana Coswey (0171-305 0055) . Serpentine Jame Sterbek (0171-723 9072) . Tate 88 Woodrow 15 bronze statuses (0171-887 9000) . V& A. Jain Art from India (0171-938 8500) . Whitechapet: Emi Nolde (0171-522 7888)

El THE SHAKESPEARE REVUE. A with overing of song, dance and statiches to do with Wilbern S. Assembled by Christopher Luszombe and Malcolm McKee Vasudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987) Mon-Fn, Born; Sat, 8 30pm; mate: Wed, 2-30pm and Sat, 5-30pm. THEATRE GUIDE House full, returns only
Some seats available
Seats at all prices

S SWEET PANIC: Sasks Reeve plays a troubled mother stalling a chick psychologist (Hamet Walter) in Stephen Pollakoff a play about the strains of the in

Inspector, and Edward Peel and Susan Engel as the pilars of society Gamlels, Channg Cross Roed, WC2 (1171-494 5085) Mon-Fr. 7 45pm, Sat, 8,15pm; mate Wed. 2 30pm, Sat, 5pm Humpetead, Swes Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-7/22 9301) Now previewin 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Opens Feb 8 (5) THE TOWER. Alexandre Dumas' high romantic melodrama goes way ov the top for most modern tastes but is MA LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC: Elegan and successful production by Sean Mathies of Sondhelm's Swedish charmer Judi Dench, Patrica Hodge, San Philips and Lambert Wisson among the stars shrang at the night. National (Oliver), South Bank, SE1 (0171-828 2252). T worth a wast nonetheless. Sinead LONG RUNNERS

□ Blood Brothers: Prodrix (0171-887 1044) □ Cats: New London (0171-405 0072) □ Deard Guilty Apolto (0171-994 5070) □ □ Greape: Dominion (0171-416 6080) □ Others: Palsadum (0177-494 5020) □ Startifoth Evaness Apolio Victoria Starlight Express Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8666) . . . The Woman In Black: Fortune (0171-838 223

☐ THE LONG ANOTHE SHORT
AND THE TALL, Mark Arden and Bert
Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's
celebrated jumple-war dramat; produced
by Counterpoint Theathr Co, to follow
ther unjoyable The Streets of Dublin,
Albery, Si Martin's Lune, MCZ (0171369 1730), Opens tongfit, 7pm Thea
Mon-Sal, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and
Sat, Spm Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre HEAT (15): LA detective Al Pacino ties to catch Robert De Niro's crooks Excellent epic crime drams from winter director. Micros. Missing. director, Michael Mann Claphum Picture (0171-498 3323) Coronel (5) (0171-7276705) MGMsc Fultum Road (0171-3702638) Trocadaro (5) (071-434 0031) Odeon

Trocason (2) (171-43-9 (14098) Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Seroen/Balker Street (0171-935 2772) Seroen/Brieg (0171-226 3520) UCI Whiteleys (2) (0171-792 3332) Werner (3) (0171-437 4343) Fulham Road (0171-370 2635) Trocedoro (5) (0171-434 00311 Plazz (0171-437 1234) UC) Whiteleys (5) (0171-792 3332) DANGEROUS MINDS (15). Michelle Pleiffer brings hope to an inner-city school, Predictable, rose-tinted dramat director, John N. Smith MGMs; Chelsen (0171-352 5095)

◆ THE INNOCENT SLEEP (15): Papert Graves sees a marder he shouldn't Creeky British timiler, with Michael Gambon MRGMat: Haymarket (0171-838 1527) Tottenham Court Read (0171-836 5149) Trocaders (5) (0171-434 0031) Odeon Kenstraden (012/5-814 669) UCI Whiteleys @ 10171-752 33321

SABRINA (PG): Businessmar Hamson Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormand, Updated Cinderelle story just does not work. Director, Sydney Polleck. Empire (6) (0171-437 1234) MGMs: Balor St (0171-935 9772) Fulban Rd (6) (0171-970 2636) Troe (6) (0171-434 (031) UCI Whiteleys (6) (792 3332)

· WAITING TO EXHALE (15) Crude comedy-drama about black women's men problems. With Whitney Houston and Angela Basselt ISGMs: Folham Roed (5) (0171-370 Bosines: Futnam Hood (2) (0171-370 2636) Shaffbeshury Avegue (0171-836 8279) Trocadero (2) (0171-434 0031) Odeons: Kensington (01428 914666) Swisa Coltage (01459 914098) UCI Wishaleys (2) (0171-792 3332) Wenter (2) (0171-437 4343)

Law of the jungle music

Clive Davis

meets a legal eagle turned

jazzman on the eve of his

London visit

The city of Toulouse, known to its admirers as "la ville rose", has many architectural splendours. The Palais des Sports, a slab of New Brutalism ten minutes' walk from the Romanesque basilica of Saint Sernin, is not among

This bleak outcrop of wan municipal concrete forms the least suitable venue imaginable for a performer as subtle as Paolo Conte. Yet as the audience settles into regimented lines of plastic seats, the singer and his nine-piece band slowly transport us into a world of dreams, one part Harlem, one part Havana.

Jelly Roll Morton, self-styled "creator of jazz", once farnously declared that all good New Orleans music required "a Spanish tinge". Conte, a devotee of the trinity of Morton, Ellington and Armstrong, takes the advice to heart, With their languid percussion, mournful accordion and saxophones, his tunes amount to inuch inore than a token

exercise in revivalism. His raw, guttural voice and the melodies swirling around the Palais des Sports seem utterly contemporary. The simple yet effective lighting, the spots cascading onto individual soloists, adds immeasurably to the atmosphere,

All but unknown in Britain but adored on the Continent. the grey-haired lawyerturned-bandleader from Asti performs at the Barbican Centre tomorrow. Though he spurns all showbiz niceties, seldom speaking to his audience and preferring to concentrate on his piano playing, he

AS A way of launching the Contemporary Music Network into a second

and innovative concerts around Britain, this collaboration between composer/arranger Mike Gibbs and the Creative Jazz Orchestra could not have been bettered. The northernbased orchestra exists to commission new work from and perform the existing music of contemporary composers. In Gibbs, equally adept at creating music for jazz-rock big bands. chamber groups or symphony orches-tras, it found the ideal leader.

On this occasion, Gibbs conducted the 16-piece orchestra, driven by guest drummer Peter Erskine, through a rich and absorbing programme comprising not only his own compositions, but also his arrangements of material



casts a curious spell over his public, whether or not they understand his decidedly elliptical Italian lyrics.

His rumpled, saturnine looks help, of course; at a superficial level Conte is the thinking woman's Julio Iglesias. But his charisma goes well beyond physical nuances. He possesses the rare ability to evoke a world of hallucinations, half-consummated love affairs and long, solltary nights in a darkened bar. Hadhe been born a century and a half ago, he would surely have

been a poet. In his publicity shots, and on the cover of his latest album Una faccia in prestito (A Face on Loan) - released on the East-West label - the furrowed Conte brow is well to the fore. Here is a loner, you are led to believe, who never deigns to smile. But away from the stage, seated in his dressing room before his concert, he reveals a far more jovial side to his character. He would, you sense, make good company well into the early hours over a bottle of red wine.

Though the occasional English phrase crops up his songs - one weird, Fats Waller-like interlude goes under the title Don't Throw It in the WC -Coote does not speak the language. This, he explains through his interpreter, he regards as a grievous failing. After all, he loves the music of

the ideal vehicle for his style of popular song. Italian is a beautiful language, but it's not. very rhythmic. English swings much more easily." he says. "You have shorter words. They flow better." His international success

took him somewhat by surprise. He notes that audiences outside his native land approach his work from a slightly different angle. "In Italypeople are drawn to my work through the words. Elsewhere they don't always understand the lyrics, but the music is more important anyway. So, that way, they still capture the spirit of the show."

Conte's history offers hope for any frustrated artist trapped in a pin-stripe suit.

For years he practised civil law in his family's firm, while playing piano in his free time. His first instrument, back in the 1950s, was actually the vibraphone: for a while he daydreamed of becoming Piedmont's answer to Lionel Hampton or Milt Jackson. He recorded a single with a quartet, without much success. Subsequent groups, with such solid Italian names as the Barrelhouse Jazz Band proved

equally unsuccessful. He turned to writing songs and in the late 1960s one of his compositions Azzurro was a hit for the singer Adriano Celentano. More successes followed, in Italy and France, and he hit the jackpot with a number for Johnny Halliday. the air-brushed Elvis Presley of the French-speaking world Emboldened, Conte plucked up the courage to try his hand

In concert, his pitch wanders far and wide on occasion. appearing to leave his band cruising in some distant key. People often compare his gravelly delivery to that of Tom Waits: in the band arrangements there is a trace of the songs of Brecht and Weill. Mention this to him and he accepts the compliment. Otherwise he refuses to delve too deep into the matter of influences. All he will say is that he loves classical music, canzooettas and the popular song of South America. And jazz, of course, especially the vintage stuff from the 1920s, when Duke Ellington was still turning out exotic, minor-key "jun-gle music" at the Cotton Club.

At Toulouse, after a twohour set including an epic tango encore, he gives a casual wave and disappears into the wings. Strange to think that, as a solo artist, Conte was not exactly an overnight success. He was well into his fifties before he finally renounced the Bar. Yet who now could tell that he was ever a lawyer? That, he says with a broad smile backstage, is because the artistic life has won.

Paolo Conte is at the Barbican (0171-638 8891) tomorrow, 8pm

Elgar and the poetry of Kip-ling. And English is, he feels, Electric and eclectic

Charles Ives. Mark-Anthony Tur-nage and Oliver Knussen. A couple of Gibbs pieces, the hauntingly cootem-

plative To Lady Mac In Memory and the densely percussive. Kosasa, the latter's roots firmly planted in Gibbs's native Zimbabwean soil, showed off the orchestra in relatively straightforward jazz big-band mode, its approach tight yet supple, its cohesive ensemble skills nicely balanced against individual solo virtuosity.

The following Turnage piece, however, the four-part Her Anxiety, neatly

Mike Gibbs/Creative demonstrated just how mutually bene-Jazz Orchestra ficial a jazz/classical collaboration can be Queen Elizabeth Hall in the right hands. In both this and a

later Turnage piece, Momentum, Gibbs somehow managed to retain the compositions' considerable complexities while opening them up at crucial points to cogent jazz improvisations from reeds player Iain Dixon and guitarist Mike Walker. The material by Charles Ives -

honoured for his eccentric eclecticism long before Post-Modernism rendered his species of genre-blurring all but

compulsory - fared equally well under Gibbs's sensitive handling. Whether drawing out all the faintly soured jauntiness in Barn Donce and Charlie Rutlage or luxuriating in the "cosmic landscape" conjured up by The Unanswered Question, Gibbs created - as his great inspiration Gil Evans always managed to do - a wholly coovinging

Such intelligent cohesiveness, embracing the most rousing Mingusian rambunctiousness at one extreme and the subtlest impressionistic delicacy at the other, ensured that while the whole performance was thoroughly imbued with jazzy essence of Gibbs, no violence was done to the integrity and spirit of the original compositions.

CHRIS PARKER

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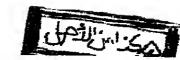
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POP 1

A class act on twin tracks: how Gemini are spreading a little melody in our schools



■ POP 2

Babylon Zoo follow their astounding single with an equally fine new album





■ POP 3

.. while Nick Cave presents a chilling disc of Gothic melodrama on Murder Ballads



POP 4

and Marion, five Mancunians, make a fine album debut with This World and Body

Alan Jackson joins chart wannabes Gemini on a groundbreaking gig - at a school in the Midlands

Extra lessons in screaming

t is a cold, wet Wednesday afternoon in Wolverhampton, and lingering in the corridors of Deansfield High is the faint but unmistakable smell of school dinners only recently served. All around us is clean and polished, and the passing teenager flagged down for directions to the Head's office proves to be a model of

It is not an environment which immediately says to you "showbusiness". Yes, the pupils are in rehearsal for a forthcoming production of The Mikado, but this would not be the first place you would think of looking for the next Take That or Boyzone.

Which — today at least —

would be a mistake. In the assembly hall it may be time or the weekly PSE (Personal and Social Education) programme, but on offer is not a reprise of the last highlight, a question-and-answer session with the Samaritans. The rows of shuffling, fidgeting girls and determinedly uninterested boys are here to cast their verdict on teen pop's latest wannabes - Gemini, identical twins David and Michael. Smallwood, 21, all smouldering looks and razor-sharp cheekbones on the cover of their latest single, Steal Your

Love Away.
The idea of doing a schools tour came to me back in 1991. when I was promoting Take That," says the duo's manager, Carolyn Norman. "It was in the days before they had a record deal, and I was looking for ways of building them a fan base. We'd tried doing a Tiffany [America's youth sen-sation of 1988, all but forgotten by 1990] and playing the shopping malls, but it was a bit of an embarrassment for the lads - you could never get the sound right, and people were too busy doing their

shopping to take much notice." A club tour wasn't right either — the punters are there to dance or to meet friends, so aren't interested in paying attendon to a bunch of hopefuls. We needed some more fundamentally we're shing new and exciting, some about trying to raise aspirathing that would allow us to , tions. hit that sector of the youth market that actually does goout and spend its money on singles - and this was it. Not that we were raraming the ... band down children's throats . two other young people who and saying Get the record, or themselves are aspiring to else . . . It was just a manter of move forward and make their



Gemini rising: David and Michael Smallwood meet and greet their public after an SRO gig at Deansfield High School in Wolverhampton

audience and saying: Well, here they are and this is what they do. What do you think?

It all makes good business sense, but where is the educational value in a four-song performance by luscious, nouting Gemini? Hugh Howe. head of Deansfield and its 500 pupils, has a plausible expla--

"We're trying to raise achievement levels in a school. where many of our youngsters come from backgrounds where unemployment, housing and general lack of facilities are an issue, "he says. "But ...

"Three girls in Year Ten petitioned to invite them here. and I thought that it would be useful for our 13 and 14-yearolds to have the chance to see

path they too should follow. We're just saying look, listen, ask questions and see what you can learn. It's what PSE is all about -- broadening pupils horizons, challenging some of

tions about themselves and the world around them. And, of course, . there's been a great buzz it involves a pop

their assump-

Back in the assembly hall, it's ready, steady and go for Gemini in their bid to capture the pock-

et money vote. Against backing tracks cruelly distorted by the predictably dodgy acoustics, they sing their singletcovered hearts out, all the while twisting and turning their way through the complex dance routines de rigueur at

troduce the boys to a contained .. saying that this is the career this end of the pop market. Initially coy, the girls in the audience soon remember how

They're sex on legs," is the joint conclusion of Kelly Hopkins and Kathy Jones. "Good siogers, great bodies - far better than Take

6 They're That," chime in Katrina Hyde nice lads, and Michelle Aris. In the row magnificent classmate viewat dealing ing the proceedings from behind Joe 90-style specs with the ooines with all kids 🤊 due sagacity: "Very profession-

al presentation, and good songs." Ah! So he'll be buying the Gemini single?

After a Paxmanesque grill-ing from the floor ("What's your favourité football team?"
"Have you got a girlfriend?"

you apart?") and a lengthy fans, Joanne Till, Clare Wiley autograph-signing session and Vicki Summers. which finds some newly mini-Norman, who has also been ed girl fans coming around for involved in the careers of Bad a second or even a third time, the twins retire gratefully to an

Boys Inc. Let Loose and Right Said Fred, says: "I can't say exactly why I wanted them to empty classroom. Yes, they acknowledge, for every be the first band I managed. Wham! there's a score of failures. So it's a risky busiother than that I got the most horrendous butterflies in my ness," says Michael. "But even stomach the first time I saw to get to the stage we're at now, then perform. They're stars first with a publishing deal as even before they've got started. songwriters, then with a re-They're nice guys, they're abcording deal as artists, is an solutely stunning to look at and they're talented. Which, at David adds: "OK, so the the end of the day, is what

percentage of boy groups who actually get deals then go on to So even though, right now, make it as big as Take That is Gemini are climbing into the back of a van in a wet small. But never mind. We'll Wolverhampton school playjust do our best and be as ground, that doesn't mean "They're such nice, ordinary they're no-hopers. This is what lads, magnificent at dealing it takes nowadays to break a with the kids." is the verdict of teen band - and they gave it their all. If anyone deserves Ken Gilkes, the staff member in charge of Deansfield's en-Deansfield's spending money.

it's these two. Steal Your Love Away is

Are you the Marion kind?

MORAN

doing is so unfashionable that one expects to see the Duchess of York wearing is at some charity bash next week. In an in-between time, after the cartoon jolliness of the bright Britpop crowd and before vhatever happens next, Marion have wandered off into the high mountains and thundery skies of wild. impassioned pop-rock - the early U2 and Echo and the Bunnymen mined so

rewardingly. There's no irony punch-ups, Children's BBC positivity or novelty Ten hits here; just a massive sense of relief, release, and a nagging comaspirational, inspirational rock that meons something.

Marion's lyricist, the 20year-old wanderkind Jaime Harding, wails hard and long about "all going together" into suicide, lost dreams, stifled ambidons and endless grey skies. This World ond Body (reviewed below) is an album you could live inside for weeks. lts drive passion and breadth hint at a hand that could be seriously rivalling Radiohead within a year for the coveted Band Most Likely to Break America in Two award. You could drive a thousand miles to This

World and Body. Well, we write all our songs while we're driving around," Harding says. "We peg it all around Buxton and grey, lumpy places like that; trying to fit chord changes to gear changes. That's probably what makes the album sound so driven - because we were being driven at the time. You know that feeling, where certain chords seem to make the car go faster? That's what we were aiming

And they've done it admirably well, to a point where, after a disappointing year We were bobbins at Clasionbury - we'd finished the album the day before and had a new bass-player we'd never even rehearsed with. I felt so sick because we were

Harding hasn't got a free day until September. "I've booked a dental appointment for the 23rd, to treat

myself. We want to get another album out this year - we've already written it. I like to keep myself busy, t need order and routine and a work schedule imposed on me: otherwise I just flail around not knowing what to do. I just smoke and watch telly.

Despite his wry sense of humour, Harding is one of our more troubled pop stars. He speaks of not liking himself, of only ever feeling alive when in front of an audience. His Bonocroon are deeply affecting because singing seems to be the only time

he ever feels fully free. "I have horrible nightmares," he says. "My mum and stepdad were woken up by me banging on the front door at three in the morning. I was wearing just pants, a pair of Doc Martens, a rucksack, and hurbling on about how a man was going to steam me to death. But I love sleep - it's my favourite thing. What are the other nine?

"Oh, another nine kinds of sleep. You know -- on your side, on your front, in a chair, on the floor, in a van ... I had my best ever sleep in New York last year. We'd gone to see our American record company; they're in a huge building in the middle of Manhattan. We were on the top floor as the sun was going down, and they put on the finished album. It was the first time we'd heard it since we were in the studio. I was looking at New York's lights and dark paiches, listening to the album, being amazed by how good it was, vindicated I felt. I slept like

With Harding's phenomenal work rate ensuring there will be a second Marion album before the end of 1996, the band seem almost certain to set up residence in the charts before the summer is fully out.

a baby that night,"

Jean genie shakes off the jean jinx

BABYLON 200 The Boy with the X-Ray Eyes

(EMI 7243 8 37204) THE phenomenal success of Babylon Zoo's first single. Spaceman, which registered the biggest one-week sale in this country since Band Aid's Do They Know it's Christmas?, has not entirely laid to rest doubts about the group's long-term viability. Still looming in the wings is the spectre of Stillskin, who enjoyed a similarly explosive hit thanks to a Levis advertisement in 1994, and promptly sank without trace.

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However, with the arrival of Babylon Zoo's debut album. The Boy with the X-Ray Eyes. such worries may confidently be set aside. Written, played. sung and co-produced by 24year-old Jas Mann from Wolverhampton, it is a credible and cohesive collection of songs which harnesses a big, distorted guitar sound to a futuristic vision that is more lunar pop than Britpop.

Spaceman, a good-natured chronicle of space-age fear and loathing set to an unforpettable chorus, has clearly struck a chord in the Britain of the late 1990s and already has the sound of a pop classic. And, while Mann's glam-rock influences are clear -a sort of Bowie-meets-Suede amalgamation, adapted for the postguinge era — he has the wit to convert them into something identifiably his own and to carry the torch forward.

The mechanical-sounding production results in a lack of swing, but Mann skilfully works the angles on a narrow defined patch, weaving together dense layers of guitars on Zodiac Sign, conjuring a mel-Incholic mood on Caffeine and hitting the jackpot with the surging. Beatles-derived melody of the title track.

At his most arch, he sounds like a poor man's Brett AnderNEW ALBUMS: Babylon Zoo are shooting for the moon who sounds like Bono in a

son - London town is burning/And the New York lights are laughing/But nothing, oh nothing, can tear us apart." he sings over and over again in Is Your Soul for Sale?, before petering out in a croak of despair. But it chimes perfectly with the new mood of doomed romanticism that seems to be surfacing as the cheery optimism of Britpop begins to fade.

NICK CAVE AND THE BAD SEEDS Murder Ballads (Mute STUMM138)

ORGANISED around a simple theme which gives full rein not only to his morbid obsession with violent death but also to his supreme talent as a narrative songwriter. Murder Ballads is vintage Nick Cave. An album rich in Gothic drama and elemental truths, it is by turns graphic . ("They found Mary Bellows cuffed to the bed/With a rag in her mouth and a bullet in her head"), sad ("All beauty must die") and comic ("Since I was no bigger than a weevil, they've been saying I was

The centrepiece of the album, a 14-minute mass-murder fantasy called O'Malley's Bar, is a somewhat laboured exercise, but Cave's raging performance of Stagger Lee



Missing the boat? Marion have finally released their album but will not play live again until March

and his droll excursion into. Minogue on the mournful Curse of Millhaven rank among the best performances of his ten-album solo career. Best of all are the duets with P. J. Harvey (a spellbinding Henry Lee) and Kylie

CONTROL FUNESTING Alanis Morissette (Maverick) Pulp (Island Boys for Pele....... Robson & Jerome... History..... Something to Remember.......

the mind of a 15-year-old . Where the Wild Roses Grow, female serial killer in The Cave's biggest ever hit. The Cave's biggest ever hit. The finale, a grand singalong version of Bob Dylan's Death is not the End featuring the massed voices of Cave. Harvey, Minogue, Shane Mac-Gowan and others, is so macabre it sounds as if the song has not so much been recorded as embalmed.

> MARION This World and Body (London 828 695)

TIMING is such a crucial factor in launching a band such as Marion. Five surly young men from Manchester with scissor-kick stage moves, a repertoire of thrusting, guitar-led pop tunes and a singer

hurry ... wasn't that last year's thing? And, having toured themselves into the ground to promote a couple of singles this time last year, why, with the album finally ready, are they nowhere to be seen until the end of March? Judged purely on its merits This World and Body is a decent enough debut, whose high points include a much improved re-recording of their single Sleep, the untypically sensitive ballad Your Body Lies and the pounding and The Only Woy. But although dispatched with tremendous vigour and a lot of heart, the nagging impression remains that they may have missed the boat.

successful as we can be."

tertainments programme and

hence the man lobbied by the

MINISTRY

(Warner Bros 9362-45838) NEVER far from self-parody at the best of times, Ministry have drifted into the realms of diché with their seventh alburn, Filth Pig. Outflanked in recent years by a wave of industrial acts they influenced in the first place, notably Nine Inch Nails, the duo of Al Jourgensen and Paul Barker have responded by redoubling their efforts to sound as grossly doomy and nihilistic as

The result is a wearying barrage of sub-Black Sabbath guitar riffs, accompanied by Jourgensen bellowing slogans such as "I've never had a life. I don't even know what life is' in his gargling-of-the-gods voice. It does not work at anything less than windowthreatening volume, and even then its theatrical effect is strictly one-dimensional. And Lay Lady Lay is so bad it is not even funny.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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> 1998 brit award nominees best band · best album "the bends"



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EDUCATION

. Why our universities have been driven to revolt

Peter Scott

explains the crisis behind plans for a £300 levy on

students

he universities are revolting. Today, the vice-chan-cellors will decide whether to charge new students an emergency levy of £300, as a preliminary to making all students pay for higher education. Also this week, the Association of University Teachers circulated to its entire membership a warning of gloom and doom and asked for concrete examples of the damage being caused by government cuts.

Their revolt bas taken even the universities by surprise. The spark was the autumn Budget. The vicechancellors, perhaps naively, had hoped for a broadly neutral outcome, even for a modest preelection boost. In the event, the higher education budget was cut recurrent funding broadly in line with the Higher Education Funding Council for England's private expectations, and capital expenditure slashed savagely.
The Private Finance Initiative, of

course, was invoked as an alternative way to renew universities' and colleges' crumbling plant, but no one was deceived about the initiative's irrelevance in a flat property market. The vice-chancellors were shocked. So, too, was the academic

ormer polytechnics felt equally betrayed. Buoyed. up by their elevation to university status in 1992, just three years later they have been let down with a bump. Two new factors explain the universities radical disenchantment. First, the limits of efficiency gains are being: reached. In the past decade higher education has improved its produc-tivity by more than a quarter. But this cannot continue without a radical change in the nature of higher education. We are trying to provide an elife system at massmarket prices:

Secondly, expansion has groundto a balt. When the Government first announced the new policy of consolidation three years ago: it seemed a temporary pause for radically curtailed. In psychologibecome clear that growth will not resume before the end of the century. Also, there appears to be an alarming shortfall in student demand, which justifies the Gov-ernment's policy (although sorting out cause and effect is difficult), but makes things even worse for universities because they risk losing money if they fail to fill their places. The impact of the end-of growth



The parents of these sixth-formers in Islington, north London, may be among the first to pay a £300 levy

has been profound. In cash terms, alternative — is a cry of anger and nas been protoud, in east terms universities could live with plunging unit costs, the income they receive per student, so long as their actual budgets grew because more students were being enrolled. Now some find themselves dangerously over-extended, and all have had their room for financial manoeuvre system up. It was tough - higher workloads and more pressure to publish - but it was worth it so long as a new higher education for a new Britain was being built. Now. that optimism too has been punctured.

The vice chancellors' decision to impose a levy - the proposal is likely to be approved if only ment market, will waive it? How because there seems to be no

pain. Their message is "enough is enough". Their hope that in a pre-election year the Government, more interested in cash-backs (as to electricity consumers) than new demands on tax-resistant voters. will be alarmed by the prospect of perhaps half a million predominantly middle-class parents receiv-ing an imexicated bill for £300 from October 1997.

erhans the threat alone will be sufficient. Certainly if it has to be carried out there will be difficulties. How many universities will reject the levy on principled grounds? How many, faced with a tight recruitmany students, or their parents,

will adopt the can't-pay-won't-pay tactic so successfully employed in the poll tax crisis. Will there be legal challenges?
The Government, for reverse

(perverse?) reasons, has condemned the proposal. For several years ministers have nodded indulgently at the anguished attempts by some vice-chancellors to persuade top-up fees. Now, when it looks as if the -vice-chancellors bave screwed up their courage to the sticking point, ministers have gone into reverse. Universities and colleges, they now say, have sufficient resources provided they manage them sensibly.

The curious outcome is that most vice-chancellors probably support the levy, although many still have doubts about charging top-up fees on a permanent basis. With the Government it is the other way round. Ministers are absolutely opposed to the emergency levy, for straightforward electoral reasons, but keen to see the long-term burden for providing higher education transferred from taxpayers to "customers", that is, students and

Both sides are being unrealistic. The vice-chancellors have a shortterm strategy, to keep the political pressure on the Government. But the countervailing pressures on ministers, to deliver tax cuts while not harming too publicly frontline services in schools housing or social services, are much more

The vice-chancellors still lack a genuine long-term strategy. Ostensibly it is to campaign for the introduction of income-contingent loans to cover tuition as well as student maintenance. Under this scheme the Government puts more money for higher education up front and students pay h back sometime or never. The scheme does not appeal to the Treasury. Those vice-chancellors who are committed to the principle of public funding of higher education know this, which is why they are prepared to go along with income-contingent loans. They know they are never going to happen.

ur present unsaosfactory and inequitable student loans system and year-on-year efficiency gains are holding down costs nicely. The only kind of "alternative" funding that ministers will accept is a system that produces immediate and substantial savings which is the last thing vicechancellors want. Their greatest fear is a scenario in which the success of top-up fees enables the Government to cut its contribution. An unbridgeable gap: vice-chancellors see alternative funding as supplementary to existing grants: ministers as substituting for public expenditure.

But the Government is being equally naive and shortsighted. Universities with disaffected leaders, stressed staff, ageing equip-ment and crumbling buildings overflowing with students, cannot play their part in building a oew Britain. The "other government" led by Michael Heseltine, with its mantras about competitiveness and technology foresight, affects to institutions in enhancing our national wellbeing. If this is more than rhetoric it must mean that somewhere in the depths of Whitehall the case for investing in higher education is acknowledged. The vice-chancellors' task is to unlock this secret support.

• The author is director of the Centre for Policy Studies in Education at the University of Leeds.



Oxbridge doors 'should be opened wider'

Our ancient centres of learning are not

doing enough to admit state school pupils

The recent debate on elitism in state-financed education has centred on the grammar schools, but I also have concerns about Oxford and Cambridge.
As a Cambridge graduate I am

convinced that outstanding centres of tertiary education, by no means only Oxford and Cambridge, are essendal in this very competitive world. But if they receive public money, they should be equally accessible to pupils of exceptional talent regardless of background.
Oxford and Cambridge take a

disproportionately large number of candidates from the independent sector. Why? There are many issues and many colleges are determinedly seeking to redress the balance.

Selection is essentially imperfect, and this had led us at the Henrietta Barnett School to examine carefully both our entrance examination and interview procedure. We are a multi-ethnic, multi-faith community and one third of our pupils are bilingual. No faith or ethnic group dominates. We constantly question how we can give equal opportunities to our candidates and how we can identify real potential, rather than achievement gained through a stultifying coaching regime.

The intentions of Oxford and

Cambridge to widen their intake are clear, as such schemes as the Target Schools" demonstrate. But these intentions are not always confirmed by candidates' experiences at interview. Last year I wrote an open letter to all colleges to which our girls had applied. I had helpful feedback from many colleges and yet I continue to hear The interviewer kept interrupting the interview to arrange some

"He was reading The Guardian when I arrived and had not read my application form."
"The two interviewers were more

Christmas event."

interested in scoring academic points off each other and gave me little opportunity to speak for

A girl who had had a debilitaons and depressing illness was asked whether she thought she would take to drink and drugs at

university.

A Muslim girl in a headscarf was asked where she came from and what her parents (shopkeepers) did

for a living.

I know that the comments above are only the perceptions of the candidates, but for the often less confident state school pupil the experience can be destructive. It should be possible to interview in such a way that a candidate feels that she has had the opportunity to be assessed fairly, and rejection is not then to be regarded as negative. Letters sent to me by colleges with individual comments are very much appreciated.

y current A-level pupils achieved outstanding GCSE results, attracting much national publicity. Some of our most able would not consider Oxford and Cambridge and some of those returning from interviews have confirmed the prejudices of my students. The college that sent a friendly welcoming letter to a student going for interview, setting out clearly what was expected as regards dress, topics likely to be covered and the procedure to be followed, is still an exception.

All colleges should take seriously the disproportionate intake of state school pupils and consider the image they are giving. An interview is a two-way process. Stories such as those above circulate in schools and do much harm.

admissions tutor that many Cambridge colleges are not places for a quiet or self-effacing pupil, how-ever bright. The interview techniques described above confirm this, and Cambridge is the loser.

JANE DE SWIET The author is head teacher of the Henrietta Barnett School, a selective girls' school in north London.

Learning the tricks of the exam trade

How to make the most of an Easter tutorial college

tutorial college revision programme are being advised to be more realistic about their aims.

Two years of study will not be magically delivered in a week-long course, but the techniques taught can make grades of difference to the Alevel candidate. One of the key benefits of a revision course is the way it can help to refine study skills and ensure that the work already done by sixth-formers is put to optimum use.

Elizabeth Rickards, coprincipal at Davies, Laing & Dick, one of the leading tutorial colleges, says: The most common reason in our experience why students underachieve in exams is because they do not know what the examiner wants. They have no experience of seeing what an A-grade answer looks like, and even if they do know, they just have not practised enough the theory of good exam performance.

Easter revision courses focus on teaching students how to revise effectively. Many young people disappear off to their rooms as the exams draw near, but are they actually working up there? Are they covering all the material? Are they revising topics they like and are good at, but ignoring those topics which actually need

more attention?" She says that students of

own devices.

Easter revision courses teach you to treat the whole business of exams in an efficient and professional manner. You learn to stop feeling overwhelmed by the whole exam ordeal and you become motivated to get down to work."

The fact that parents are digging deep to aid the candidate's chances must be an incentive. A week's course costs £300 to £400 on average, but demystifying the A-

The techniques taught can make grades of difference to A-level pupils

level process is part of a good revision college's role. Ms. Rickards feels that "the first and most important aspect of motivating students is to make them realise that they can be successful. You do not have to be Einstein to get good grades at A level but you do have to be thorough and organised, and you need to know what the examiner

is looking for. Finding a course to suit your needs is becoming ever more difficult, however, with a growth in "seasonal" col-

tudents hoping for topics to revise if left to their sarily to be avoided because Easter miracles from a own devices. the more reputable use expeavailable only during the Easter break.

But the 32-college Conference for Independent Fur-

ther Education (CIFE) counsels caution. Myles Glover, the organisation's secretary, says: On the whole the mushrooming of the seasonal providers is not good news for the public, All of our colleges are established and run courses the whole year and they have a core of permanent full-time staff, giving stability. The danger of seasonal providers is that they simply come into the market and are effectively brokers between freelance tutors and parents."

the independent consultancy. Gabbitas, also advises parents to do their own homework on colleges before parting with the average £350 for a week's

Wendy Johnson of Gab-bitas says "Our advisers have noticed an increase in the numbers setting up just for Easter. Parents ought to find out what system there is of comeback or guarantee of standards." She advises parents to ask for details of past parents and students the organisation has taught, so that they can be quizzed about its service.

DAVID CHARTER ● To check whether a college is a nutorious at sticking to "soft"

Leges which emerge only at member of CIFE, contact it on Easter. They are not neces- 01233 820797.

Are we getting value for our money from Ofsted?

Monday, Chris Woodhead, the Senior Chief Inspector of Schools, will pronounce on the performance of state education over the past year. But what sort of value did the taxpayer get for the £67 million spent by Ofsted, the agency he heads? The inspection system has

been scrutinised in a report for CfBT Education Services, Ofsted's largest contractor. This is not, perhaps, the most impartial source, since CfBT presumably wants to remain in business, but the judgments are creditably objective. A key proposal, to move to a ten-year inspection cycle, for example, is certainly not in the organisation's interests. The author of the study is

Mike Douse, who ran Australia's Disadvantaged Schools Programme in the 1970s and now advises governments all over the world. Not previously acquainted with the Ofsted system, his verdict in the agency's jargon might be sound but with important weaknesses

Some of the report's criticisms are mildly coded, as Ofsted's often are. But most do not take much reading between the lines. A call for the agency to be "ideologically objective and also manifestly appearing so", for example, will be seen as a barely disguised reference to Mr Woodhead's more controver-

sial outpourings. However, the main criticisms, which would find an echo in schools up and down the country, are that the process is too negative and mechanistic. The framework under which inspectors operate is to alter in April, addressing some of Mr Douse's concerns, but the present reliance on checklists and pseudoscientific analysis is a common source of disquiet.

Ofsted's approach is both

Time to inspect the inspector

some guarantee of consistency among the disparate teams and a defence against charges of unfairness, but it is also a straitjacket preventing inspectors from making constructive comments. The report urges that, as inspection gains acceptance, qualitative impressions should be encouraged. "By such means, inspection should come 10 encourage high-quali-



Chris Woodhead: outspoken

ty diversity rather than to reward mere conformity." Mr Douse concludes that Ofsted has justified its existence, but the process should move from a "penal cum archival" approach to one that focuses more on helping schools to improve. He believes that too much emphasis is placed on identifying failure and not enough on steering teachers towards effective practice elsewhere.

The sentiments are echoed

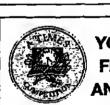
tion published this week by the National Union of Teachers. Professor John MacBeath, of Strathclyde University, argues that the Scottish system, with its emphasis on self-evaluation, produces a more frank and accurate assessment of schools' real strengths and

Both reports want schools to be judged against nadonal standards, but express doubts about the way they are mea-sured at present. Mr Douse says that some Ofsted statistics are "dangerously misleading" and suggests using socio-economic indicators as well as examinación results to set targets for improvement, which would trigger a full inspection if they were not met.

He also finds that while Ofsted reports may be meaningful to the professionals, the same cannot be said of parents, who are marginalised under the current arrangements. The report says that the summary reports provided to parents achieve little, and many head teachers "massage inspectors' messages through highly selective media releases and letters to parents".

However, Mr Douse is generally impressed by the integ-rity of all sides concerned with inspection. "Many of them are sceptical — even cynical regarding the process; and frequently they mistrust one another. But there is a general sense of just about everyone attempting to make the existing arrangements operate as well as possible, while still reserving the right to comment and the ability to dream. Whatever else it may have done, Ofsted has certainly helped to stimulate a widespread, fascinating and, in my view, potentially valuable national educational debate."

JOHN O'LEARY



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Young disciples would cherish a game fit for heroes

alk along a piece of common land in Wales in summer and there you will find small boys playing cricket. Listen and you will hear that they imagine themselves as England, even in these difficult cricketing times, playing a Test against Australia or West Indies. Playing for higher international stakes, they might for the moment ignore Glamorgan. Atherton's name will be on every schoolboy's lips as each, in his mind's eye, thinks himself to be the England captain at the crease.

Across in the playground of the school, a football game may be in progress, of the spontaneous type where pullovers form the goalposts and no adult dares interfere. Listen closely to their shouts and the running commentary and Manchester United will be playing Liverpool or Chelsea. There will be no sign of Cardiff or Wrexham. The clamour will be to be Giggs, Rush and Hughes just as much as for Cantona and Schmeichel. Premiership, top of the league stuff, is what matters. Hero

worship is a fine thing.
A child's mind a kingdom is. Willy-nilly he will happily cross boundaries without favour; but not always. Not in

rugby.

Behind the goalposts in Bala
or Llangennech, schoolboys
will strike eternal attitudes. Wales will forever be playing England and, unlike the other sports, there will be no takers this time for England. Rugby

Wales may languish, as some say, in the third division of world rugby, whereas England are at the top of the first along with South Africa. New Zealand and France. However tarnished the Wales jersey may have become of late, the boys in the village game will always aspire to wear it and conspire in the park that Wales always win. For these youngsters' heroes are born still to play rugby in Wales.

A Welshman will freely FIVE NATIONS

As Wales prepare

for Twickenham, Gerald Davies says

beating England

is still important admit, as Arwel Thomas did

last weekend, that, for him, England are the team to beat. England may not care to admit as much, be more reticent, reserved or wishing to effect a cool disinterest in these matters, but, come the moment when the whistle blows. they will feel the same, too, down at the clubhouses of Saracens and Wasps. Thomas plays against Eng-

land for the first time tomorrow, but he will, in his mind's eve, have done so innumerable times before on Trebanos's spare patch. He will have imagined great games of ebb and flow, of attack and counter-attack, of thrust and parry and the match will have been won and lost, amid a crescendo of excitement, in the dying minutes with a kick or

great try.

The truth, sadly, falls far short of this, for the matches have hardly been ones to inspire. Games between the countries lead to tension and inevitably demand much of a man's nerves; but they are of the teeth-gritting, jaw-jutting kind. There is, finally, no prodigious skill as events un-fold, only a stomach for endurance and defiance. Of all the five nations' championship games, it is the one with the awkward habit of letting us down the most.

If there are moments of enlighterment, they are few. Underwood's 80-yard sprint or Carling's try in 1990; Ev-Hadley's score after Clement's counter-attack in 1988. We may choose to remember Rob Andrew's immaculate goal-kicking in 1986 or Robert Jones's tactical kicks in 1989. Regrettably, there are matches that are unmemorable for the hland quality of rugby.
Often, the fixture is remem-

bered for the wrong reasons. There is the enduring image of Geoff Wheel and Bill Beau-mont in a confrontational stare and snarl in 1980, when Paul Ringer became only the second player ever to have been sent off in an internation-al at Twickenham. We may forget Dusty Hare's calm pre-cision in delivering the final penalty goal that led England to that year's grand slam.

That the fixture has the capacity to diminish players was manifest in the bitterness that overflowed into violence at the Arms Park in 1987. Players carry the baggage of the past and cannot cope with it; as, indeed, does the spectator, who is too loud in his grievances or exaggerated celebrations.

It remains a great fixture. but one that, by now, deserves better outcome. Of late. Wales have been out of sorts. too frayed at the edges to make this come about. England have had too much of their own way to make the game a proper contest. If the Welsh wag of the Seventies queried whether it was worth continuing the fixture, so can England question that now. The ball is in Wales's court.

More than that, it is high time that we had a game of greatness — and for new heroes to be born - especially in Wales. There is much need



Jones, one of a young breed of Wales players who display the eagerness to conjure up the stuff of Welsh legend. Photograph: Huw Evans

Doctor's son displays supportive touch

BY DAVID HANDS RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

احكذامن الاصاء

THERE they have sat this season in their pristine Wales blazers, the international class of 1996, fresh morning faces shining with pride and hope. Features are neutralised by the close-cropped hair styles favoured by the young but there is no mistaking Arwel Thomas—he is so slim and small that he can only be the stand-off half.

The bigger one who looks as though he might be the new back-row forward turns out to be Leigh Davies, the Neath centre, at 19 the youngest of the breed who have sprung to prominence for Wales, virtually unknown beyood their own border. So heavy is the investment in youth that ten of the side that meet England tomorrow will be playing their first international at Twickenham.

This is a generation that grew up knowing Wales in the 1980s and 1990s strug-

gling, despite the 1994 champ-ionship title, to swim with the tide. Davies was two when a grand slam was last woo and only 12 when there was the by-now rare pleasure of a triple crown, in 1988. Not for them memories of the dashing Gareth Edwards, the darting Phil Bennett - they can create their own legends.

Among the new boys is Rhodri Gwyn Jones. The open-side flanker is the key to the way in which Wales will approach the championship, When Kevin Bowring announced his XV to play Italy last month, he described his style as based on an open-side who could support his back line and ensure continuity. Ensure, too, that Wales do not get dragged into a doglight that they cannot win against

bigger, heavier forwards. Jones, now 23, says that he became a flanker by accident. Trailing after Rhys, his older hrother, to the village club at Loughor, between Swansea and Llanelli, he wanted to

join in; at the age of eight, he knew none of the backs so joined his brother in the forwards and was so small that he was relegated to the

It was, though, in the blood: his father, uncles, great uncles were all back-row forwards. "He has a very good pedigree. he was an exceptional schoolboy player." Gareth Jenkins. now his coach at Llanelli and

Welsh on their guard 40

formerly assistant to the national team, said. Educated at Llandovery College, one of the great Welsh rugby ourseries, Jones captained the Wales under-15 team, then played in the under-18, under-9 and under-21 teams.

An A cap followed against Canada, but, in 1994, a string of injuries retarded his progress; at much the same ime. however, Llanelli lost a host of high quality back-row forwards and Jones stepped into one of the gaps that Lyn Jones's departure created.
"I'm not blisteringly quick,

but it has more to do with anticipation than actual speed." Jones said. "If your angles are good and there's good communication with the backs, you can get there a bit

before the opposition."

Jones, whose father is a doctor, is a fourth-year student at the University of Wales College of Medicine. Examinations limited his rugby before Christmas and he was surprised to be called into an extended national squad.
"It will be difficult to com-

bine medicine with rugby, but I have to get my degree."
Jooes said. "Anything can happen with injuries and rugby only lasts into the 30s." At 6ft, he is out of the Josh Kronfeld school of flankers, a specialist, ball-handling, support player. "His progress depended upon whether he

could develop more power and strength in his game,"

Jenkins said. "He worked at weights to push himself to-wards 15st and, at the start (this season, I recognised that, if Llanelli were going to be successful, we had to play a game around our No 7.

"What players like Lyn and Gwyn have is uncoachable. It's instinctive. Rugby is more than a game where you hit people over, get up and do it again. Many people play with heart and soul and passion. but, when you have an important function in the side, you also have the responsibility of understanding it. Gwyn has that and it makes him captaincy material."

For the moment, Twickenham and a second cap loom. England will attack close to Arwel [Thomas] and me, and we will have to contain them." Jones said. That will be the crux of the match, if we can stop their back row." If they do, and if the Wales backs can catch fire, then maybe the stuff of Welsh legend will not seem so far distant after all.

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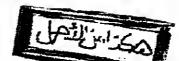
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THE UNIVERSITY OF READING

<u>rojeje stavej saroje i</u> poslovenim poslovenim je je je



Late decision on Monsieur Le Cure's running plans

Edwards delays Irish venture

MONSIEUR LE CURES participation in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Leopardstown on Sunday is going to the wire, despite the pleak prospect of racing at Sandown tomorrow, when the horse is also engaged.

John Edwards, who trains

Monsieur Le Cure, is keen to take advantage of milder con-ditions in Ireland. But Hector Brown, who owns the tenyear-old chaser, has yet to sanction the plan. "He wants to leave it to the last minute." Edwards said yesterday.

The Leopardstown race represents one of the last opportunities for Cheitenham Gold

E LA SE

Nap: SEA GOD (4.30 Southwell) Next best: Non Vintage (3.00 Southwell)

Cup aspirants to compete outside handicap company. Master Oats and Jodami, the latter looking to win the prize for the fourth year running, are to represent Britain but the most interesting horse in the race is Imperial Call.

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State -

Trained in Co Cork by Fergus Sutherland, Imperial Call tackles three miles for the first time after featuring prominently over shorter trips in top-class company. All week, the seven-year-old has been backed with Ladbrokes to make his mark.

Imperial Call's last outing saw him take the scalp of Strong Platinum, second favourite for the Queen Mother Champion Chase, over 214 miles at Leopardstown three weeks ago. Doubtless Imperial Call was helped by a 12lb weight advantage that day, but his pedigree suggests he. Richard Dunwoody, who



Monsieur Le Cure looks across the water, although Edwards has yet to confirm whether he will run at Leopardstown

will improve for covering a spurned the ride aboard Imp- from 33-1 but the seven-yearstay three miles with ease. although these are anxious times for Sutherland's stable. Imperial Call is one of half a dozen horses owned by Lisselan Farms Ltd, the offshoot of a marketing company which recently advertised all its horses for sale. Already, there has been considerable interest, but victory on Sunday

would surely trigger a race for the cheque-books among wealthy British patrons.

distance of ground crial Call, schooled his pre-He should, theoretically, ferred mount; Flashing Steel, over five fences after racing at Punchestown yesterday. But Dunwoody was out of luck from his five mounts. Blazing Spectacle, a candidate for the Arkie Trophy Chase, was an odds-on failure on unsuitable ground. And Balawhar, one of . four horses in contention at the final flight of the Red Bog Hurdle, could not contain Derrymoyle, the mount of Mark Dwyer.

Coral's cut Derrymoyle's Champion Hurdle odds to 20-1 training on Wednesday, wast-

old will first tackle the Boyne Hurdle, at Navan a week tomorrow, before connections finalise their Cheltenham agenda. Derrymoyle has the Stayers' Hurdle as an alternative. Tiananmen Square, a fine third behind Derrymoyle after a two-year absence, was trimmed to 25-1 from 50-1 for

the Champion Hurdle but is

almost certain to contest the

Tim Easterby, who assumed command when his father. Peter, retired from

ed no time in opening his account when Bridle Path won the Peterlee Novices' Hurdle at Sedgefield yesterday.

Adrian Maguire's efforts to resume at the weekend were all but realised when he suffered no reaction to riding work at David Nicholson's stables yesterday morning. "I feel 100 per cent and all that is left is for me to pass the racecourse doctor." Maguire said of his scheduled visit to Sandown tomorrow, "I have four decent mounts lined up and I hope the meeting goes ahead." Don't we all.

Cold snap continues to bite

row's National Hunt meetings deteriorated yesterday. with frost threatening the valuable cards at Sandown. Chepstow and Wetherby.

"We had a very heavy frost overnight," Andrew Cooper. the clerk of the course at Sandown, said. "We will cover up again but you can't cover the whole course. It is almost inevitable that we will be having an inspection early on Saturday morning."

Tomorrow's meeting carries £140,000 in added prizemoney, and features Cheltenham trials such as the grade one Scilly Isles Novices' Chase and Agfa Hurdle.

Prospects are poor at Chepstow, where the feature event is the £25,000-added Coral Grand National Trial. Rodger Farrant, the clerk of the course, said: "We couldn't have raced today. Twenty per cent of the course is still frozen."

Wetherby, in spite of an inspection at 9.15am today. A course spokeswoman said: We had a very slight frost overnight and there is still a bit of snow on the track. The inspection is mainly

precautionary." Today's scheduled fixture at Kelso was called off yesterday because of frost and snow, while the meeting at Folkestone is subject to a 7am inspection.

SOUTHWELL

2.00 Kind Of Light. 2.30 Milos. 3.00 Non Vintage 3.30 Oversman, 4.00 Herry. 4.30 Sea God. Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.30 SEA GOD. Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.00 Foreman. 4.30 KINGCHIP BOY (nap).

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 6F-1M, LOW NUMBERS BEST TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 HALHAM KANDICAP

(3-	Y-0:	17,	BU: 6f) (/ rumners)	
101	14)	2-51	CHILBANG BANG 7 (C.D.G.S) J Berry 9-9 (7ex)	
	-		C Loether	
:IZ	(3)	3-03	IGHD OF LIGHT 14 (C.G.) R Guest 9-7 F Lynch (BIT OF BOTHER 14 7 Barron 8-17 J Porter	7
103	m	2-64	BIT OF BOTHER 14 7 Baron 8-12 J Forks	n
184	(2)	5-44	FOREMAN 7 (V.E) W O'Gorman 8-1D Emma D'Gorma	2
16	15)	30-D	CHELAM 14 J Leigh 8-6 D McKens	ų
100	- 37	D.41	ARCC CARCITERS ON A COMPANIE 5 (7am) At Dated S	ж

105 (3) 0-41 9655 CANDITERS TO (D.6) M MARTIN - 1 (100) 1-107 (6) 0-31 SEERING DESTRINY 14 (CD,6) M Chapters B-4

2.30 LANGFORD APPRENTICES CLAIMING

201 (1) DESERT MAN 38-LIR Whodhause 5-9-7 ... F Lynch — 222 (5) 8513 MB 05 4 (C.D.F.S) 1 Mangrion 5-9-7 ... T Ashley 89 C3 13: -505 ARABOYREM 1-6 (B.D.F.S) 8 Factors 5-9-1 lone Whole 68 234 (6) 4-60 -WORTHERN GREY 1-4 (0) J Eern 4-1 Joanne Webster (5) 92 235 (4) 400 -WORTHERN GREY 1-4 (0) J Eern 4-1 Joanne Webster (5) 92 255 (2) -604 LEGALECK 138 (6,6) A Lubridated 4-8-1 ... B Switzer (3) 8-4 William 5-5 Legalec 7-2 Archaylul, 7-1 Morthern Drey, 14-1 Desen Man, 25-1 Morthern Crey, 14-1 Desen M

3.00 MANSFIELD HANDICAP (£3,023: 1m 4l) (11) 301 111) 13-1 ASHOYER 11 (CD.F.G.S.) 1 Samon 6-10-1 (5as)
Kindesley Hat (7)

301 111) 13-1 ASPANASH 11 (CD), 6, 5) 1 Barron 6-10-1 (Sm)
302 (9) 5669 TURGEREV 399 (D,6,5) R Bastiman 7-9-13
31 80 000- NEW RN 13.1 (C,D,6,5) 5 Gollings 5-9-5. V Halliddy
304 (8) 324- Nort WRIAGE 201 (F.S. II) Express 5-9-1. J Wasser 95
305 171 0.3- 80 LD PURSUIT 297 (D), 6, 5, 5) Foggradd 7-9-1 J Fortice 37
305 141 05-1 ADALDANDO 10 (CD,G) J Parkes 4-9-8... B Bardwell 93
306 141 05-1 ADALDANDO 10 (CD,G) J Parkes 4-9-8... B Bardwell 93
307 (10) -162 MICOSET 100-7 (7,D), 6-10 B Ruchmood 9-8-8 C Trangue (5) 97
308 11) 005- NORSE CANDARE: 137 5 Bourney 4-9-1... M Kennedy 82
309 (5) 870- DIZZICKOM 201 (D,E) J Herberton 7-7-12... J Dourn 87
310 (2) 550- LIST RAMEROD 201 (F.S. III Myas 5-1-12... M Bard (5) 88
311 (3) -122 MR MORARTY 7 (30,) F.5) 5 Bourney 5-7-10... N Carbol 94 11-4 Achover, 3-1 Aristosto, 7-2 Non Vintage, 7-1 Mr Monarty, 0-1 Medesi H 10-1 Tyrgeney, 12-1 others

3.30 OLD CLIPSTONE MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES

ŀ	Y-0:	22,3	398· 1m 3f) (7)	
h	(2)	02-	BALIOS 62 M Johnston 9-8 J Weaver	94
Ź	in	00-0	MULHOLLANDE LAD 25 M Crupman 3-0 D R McGabe (3)	80 96
ľ	(3)	000-	OVERSMAN 70 J Fragerald 9-0 J Fortune	96
ú	(5)	6-0	SKPMAN 23 H Smith 9-0 5 D Williams	_
Ė	[4]	00-0	DIASAFINA 1D S Valtams 8-9 J Quitan	
Ė	(1)	6-	KAT'S LADY 248 S Campion B-9 D McKepien	_
7	161	46-2	REPLOY 30 Lord Huntington 8-3 L Demon	Œ
4	Salva	. 7-4	Reploy, 11-4 Oversman, 14-1 Multipoligada Lad, 33-1 Stope Characteris	man
Ĺ	1 Km	Larke	(hecales)	

4.00 NEW BALDERTON SELLING STAKES

(
	8
502 (12) -135 ADMAMAITE 7 (C.G) 5 Bouring 4-9-3 . C Teaque (5)	3
503 :61 0-35 DUVEEN 1D (B.F.G.S) J White 6-9-0 M Tebbuti 1	ğ
	b
	9
506 17, -302 NO SUBMISSION 14 (C.G.S) D Chapman 10-9-0	
	9
S07 [10] OG-O RADNEOW WALK 9 (V.G) J D'Snea 0-9-0 J Quens	a
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10, 000	_
3-1 tio Submission 7-2 Sharp Gazulle 0-1 Kornamatie, 8-1 Duveen, Harma	1
10.1 Horn Kernelim 12.1 others	

4.30 LADBROKE ALL-WEATHER CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (Qualifier; £3,023: 1m) (11)



COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley, 19 winners from 68 reinners. 27.9% M Fyan, 19 trom 75, 55.3% Lord Hantingdon, 22 from 102, 31.6% M Johnston, 23 from 175, 18.3%, W D'Sorman, 32 from 179, 17.9%, J Fitzgerald, 20 from 124, 16.1%. JOCKEYS: Kembesley Hart, 8 einners from 24 index, 33.3%, L. Dettori, 39 from 185, 21.1%, J. Westver 38 from 208, 18.3%, F. Lyuch, 4 from 22, 18.2%, T. Ives, 21 from 118, 17.8%; R. Cachrane, 24 from 153, 15.7%.

Geldunn'major (8-7): Cash Suproma 11-4
Geldunn'major (8-7

Sedgefield
Going: good to firm, good in pieces
1.10 (2m St. 110/ct hotle) 1, Gratie Deed (R
Supple, S-11); 2, Buyers Deelern (2-1 last); 3, Johnson (B-2); 7 ran. NR; Easter
Baby, Katzar, Whitisperiesprinciass. Nk, 13,
Denys Smatti, Totae £10.00; 23.10, £1.70, £1.70,
DF 24.10, Titler £7.20, CSF-£14.00 Titlerses; 29.24,
Mess Mélippede (3-1); 7 ran. NR; Katzar, Katta, Cree
Mess Mélippede (3-1); 7 ran. NR; Desember (2-1 last); 3,
DF 24.10, Titler £7.20, CSF-£14.00 Titlerses; 29.24,
2-10 (3m 3f sth) 1, Stop The Walter (2-1); 2-1 flaw); 2, Jordeon (B-2); 3,
Russiant Castle (5-2); 9 ran, NR; Desember (2-1); 30, CSF-£15.56
CSF-£15.56
CSF-£11.27, Titlerses; £12.00;
CSF-£11.27, Titlerses; £2.10, Titlerses; £2.20; £1.27, Titlerses; £2.20;
CSF-£11.27, Titlerses; £2.20;
CSF-£12.27, Titler

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

· +J842

4A1085 .

452 .

Lead: Queen of spades

takes the ace and clears

spades; now, you cannot take more than eight tricks before tackling clubs. With West

holding the king and two established spades, that means that you go one off. The general theme is to attack the

entries in the danger hand

All convinced by that? Well, notice that what I say assumes

that it is West who has the

long spades. That is likely from the lead, but, what would

you do if you thought that East had the long spades? Now, as East's only possible

entry is in diamonds, you

should attack them first -

playing clubs first may enable

West to clear the spades and

leave East with two winners to

cash when he wins the ace of

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on

bridge Monday to Friday in

section on Saturday.

diamonds.

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The refresher today illustrates a common theme - arranging to

₩A 109

make the defenders use their entries in the wrong order.

#QJ 103

EBAS.

*K83

+384 AA984

* 77 4. _.. +KQ92

#Q J 1097

707B

. 4K78

Contract: 3 NT by South

South opened I NT (12-14) and

North raised to 3 NT. West

leads the queen of spades and,

as you have no fear in any

other suit, you duck. That gains when the spades are 6-2 — if East gets in, he will not

have another spade to lead to

establish the suit. After win-ning the second spade with the

king, what do you do? First, you count your tricks:

two in spades, two in hearts

and one in clubs. You have potential sources of extra

tricks in diamonds and clubs,

but, even if the diamonds break, that will give you only

eight tricks. So, you are going

to have to play on both suits.

The solution is to play clubs

first Say that West wins and .

clears spades; now, when you

play diamonds, if East has

another spade left, the spades

play diamonds first. East

Which do you play first?

will be dividing 4 4.

+73

Strongelong (12-1) 7 ran. NPT General Music, Philhermonic, 254, S. T. Easterby Toter 65-40; 63-70, 61.10 DF: 63.30. Thir 66.30 CSF: 68.00, E5.30 CSF: £8.00, 4.10 (2m 5f 11) yd hdie) 1, Yal De Rieme (8 Show, 11-4); 2, Urben Denoring (15-2), 3, Topothancutrasing (2-1 lav), 6 ran, NR Exemplar, Izza, Uwo, Snowy Lane, Hd, 20, Denys Smith, Tota; (3-40; £2:10, £2.50, UF; 27-90, 14-0, £6 70 CSF: £20.37, Trossc: C43.88.

Placepot \$2.90. Lingfield Park

a6 Ni6 Bd6

Bc5 Ne7

KIB Cxc5+

Kxg7 Ne8 Oc7

Od8

ed5 d5 Be6 Qa5 K8 hug6 BI5 Qc7 Kx17 Quc2 Qc8

Black resigns

Diagram of final position

1

Raymond Keene writes on ches

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER 2.40 Ciel De Brion

1.10 Tragic Hero 1.40 Pele The Parson

2.10 Lbos

4.10 Dacelo Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.10 Lixos.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 9000 TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) 9 Hull 17-0 9 West (7) 88 Racocard furnities Str-Figure force (F — ledt, P — purified trp. U — streamfed index. B — brought down. S — Stopped top. R — indused D — streamfelding); Herne's name. Days same lest cutting; F if the (B — blackers Y — volum H — leavy). Dwiter in brackets. Trainer, Agt and bened E — Eyestivid C — course without B — weight. Ruder plus any allowance. The Times

3.10 KING'S GOLD (nap)

3.40 Rainbow Castle

GOING: GOOD (CHASE COURSE); GOOD TO SOFT (HURDLES)

1.10 VALENTINE GORTON JUVENILE MAIDEN HURDLE (4-Y-O: 52,889; 2m 1f 110yd) (20 numers)

| 22,889. 2m | 11 | 10yd) | (20 numers) | ANALOSUE 102F (5 Horn) P (46chell 11-0 | R | Dunwoody | Bis Tista 1 | 142F (P Host) P (56chell 11-0 | E | Husband (3) | - 30 BON VOYASE 30 (8) (Abs C Yinsas) B Brisch 11-0 | Jis Koncraght 82 CULTURAL (DON 15F (Astr P Metchell P Michaell 11-0 | Jis Koncraght 82 CULTURAL (DON 15F (Astr P Metchell P Michaell 11-0 | D Losborne | B DCLUSNYE ASSESSELY 58F (Exclusive Concesson Form) A Jenses 11-0 | W Marston | P MICHAEL 27 (8) (Bistaget Bloodstack) C Brooks 11-0 | B Bridget | M Michael 11-0 | B Bridget | B

1995, MEETING ABANDONED -- COURSE WATERLOGGED

FORM FOCUS

BON NOVACE 8/4) 3rd of 19 to Nikoman Bay in novice handle at Liepfreid (2m 110rd, bezvy) on perulianciae start, with THE CILLIOS 5/4 4m. DeryMan 18 3rd of 11 to Zabadi in provice hundle at Namentan (2m, good). ROYAL RABBIT 3/4 5h of 11 to Affaire Daries in contact burdle at Sandown 11 to Affaire Daries in contact burdle at Sandown 10 to Affaire Daries in contact burdle at Sandown 10 burdle at Mindson (2m, cont) with EOUI-10 burdle at Windson (2m, cont) sale 17 to Daries in contact burdle at Lockou (2m, cont).

1.40 MANSTON HOVICES HANDREAP CHASE (£3,207. 2m) (12 runners) 24(1) HEAD FOR HEAVEN 59 (5) (Baim-O'Cornell Racing) R Hoad 6-11-10 G Bradley F25-54-4 STABE PLAYER 43 [F.5] (Bits C Cerey Mas C Carre 10-11-10 I Lawrence 97 S54-637 SENSE OF VALUE 28 [F.5] (Bits C Cerey Mas C Carre 10-11-10 I Lawrence 97 He55-00 SMART IN SARE 30 (S5) (C Sheriforne) P Hedge 9-11-9. M A Propend 9-285-14 ASDEAN 34 (D.5) (M Orgen-Patrice) E Buristi 7-11-7. JR Karasagh 99 323-033 [PET THE PRASON 24 IN Start 3 Off 7-11-7. JR Karasagh 99 323-033 [PET THE PRASON 24 IN Start 3 Off 7-11-7. JR Karasagh 99 323-033 [PET THE PRASON 24 IN Start 3 Off 7-11-7. JR Karasagh 99 323-033 [PET THE PRASON 24 IN Start 3 Off 7-11-7. JR Karasagh 99 323-033 [PET THE PRASON 24 IN Start 3 Off 7-11-7. JR Karasagh 99 323-33 [PET THE PRASON 24 IN Start 3 OF PRASON 24 IN START 3

Long handesp: Top Mess 8-12, Pressess Worder 9-4. SETTING: 3-1 Pete Toe Parson, 9-2 Aedean, 5-1 Factor, 11-2 Starge Player, 0-1 Smart in Sable, 0-1 Head For Heaven, 16-1 Wasspul, 12-1 others

FORM FOCUS

HEAD FOR HEAVEN best Chefenger Row 31 in passing hards at Pumpton (2m 11, 201). SENSE OF VALLE 11/61 3rd of 4 to Jacob's With the Introduction of the Introduction of

2.10 NORTH FORELAND SELLING HURDLE (£2,061: 2m 11 110yd) (13 numers) 6721-PO DO RE WARE R (D.S) (1) Ffacts-Hoves J Ffacts-Hoves 6-11-10 J R Kavanach 81

2	51P	HAPPY HOSTAGE 14 (B.CO.G) (A Altropa) J Whete 5-11-10 A P McCoy	97
3	64/ROSO	NATIVE CHESTAN 16 (F) (R Cross) S Dow 7-11-10 A Dicken	95
4		BIS CHANCE 91 (Or K Bowen) S Bowen 7-11-3 D Watch (5)	82
5		CRAZY WEATHER 22 (V) (R Bastler) Mrs P Sty 6-11-3 R Markey	98
6		DESERT PRESIDENT 15 (V) (F Moorey) R Hoad 5-11-3 G Bradley	
ž		HIGHEST ROOTS 22 (BF) (Knight Hawle, Plns) M Pipe 5-11-3. D Bridgester	
ā	P055-64	PITENTION 15F (The Seachers) P Hedge 0-11-3	
ğ		LOODS 30 (Miles; C Fagerstrom) J Banks 5-11-3 R Durwoody	
Ō		MORSTEUR BROOKS 28 (Mrs. D Brooks) R Stronge 6-13-3 R Stronge	
1	50	SHARP THREAL IF (B) IR Burks; B School 5-11-3 M Modoy (7)	
2	DOSSP	GAME DE EMMA 30 / McGreedy) J Multins 5-10-12 5 Curran (3)	
3	****	PREMER BLLES 142F (G Crean) R Williams 0-10-12 S Keightley	
	G: 3-1 List	s, 5-1 Happy Hostose D-1 Crazy Westler, 7-1 Same Dilesona, B-1 Noble Craetan, High	

FORM FOCUS

HAPPY NOSTAGE best Consider Lady 11k1 in 14nature celling movino hardie over course and distence (good) on peroximale start, with HITEMTON
(The better off) 3kl-1 4th and DESERT PRESIDENT
(The better off) 3kl-6 th, and DESERT PRESIDENT
(The better off) 3kl-6 th,
NATIVE CHIEFTAN about 33 6th of 8 in Chery's,
and in tendecop hardie at Hastington (2m 11th)
good to have the presidency start, CRAZY WEATHER 11(4th of 15) to Chiefe Wood on nonce

horde at Lurgield (3rd 110yd, heavy) on pendit-mile start, DESERT PRESDORT 151 4th of 16 to Scotisch Wedding in solling herdle at Taurdon (2rd 11, good to soll). 1805 11 2nd ni 11 to Valsard Tooks in selling hardle at Lurgield (2rd 110yd, heavy) with DESERT PRESDORT 201 4th and GAME DILEMMA (1th worse of) pulled up list. Selection: MAPPY MOSTAGE

2.40 KENT HANDICAP CHASE (£4,542, 3m 2f) (8 numbers)

001201 CRL DE BRION 58 (S1 ft de Pacamant F Doumen (F1) 6-12-B... A Mondrat — 2/1279-P K/LANSKI 19 (C.S.) II Kermani C Eperon (D-11-13 ... J A McCarthy 62 SF0-440 DO BE BRIEF 20 (B.G.S.) (E Brown) Mas J Phrima 11-11-B... W Marston 65 S21220-L TIPP MARRIER 483 (G.S.) Bris J Bechnej 15 Shattored 11-10-11... B Bradery — 23186-6 DESPERATE 28 (6.S.) (The Desposae Pinc.) 0 Shetmood 8-10-9... J Doborne 86 1P-3211 MALAWI 28 (B.G.S.) (R Bethel) W Bethell 0-10-8 ... A S Smith 90 L1127 EQUITY PLAYER 52 (CD.F.G.S.) (The Mas S Partnershop) R Carlis 11-10-7 D Monte 90 D-P4052 ANNIO CHILONE 18 (CD.G.S.) (Moss J Somple) J Baltord 10-10-6 L Appell (7) 95

CIE. DE BRION best Chel Dudy 8I in 10-names handicas shace at Auteuil IAm 8I, way soft) DO BE BRIEF 25/41 4th of 8 in Suny 80y in handicap base at Towards (3m 11, 2011 on penulturate shart TOPA MARRINER 21 3nd of 8 in Amaguel in bandicap states at Ayr (3m 11, 2004) on penulturate handicap states at Ayr (3m 11, 2004) on penulturate handicap states at Fonked (3m 11 in leazand in handicap states at Fonked (3m 11 in leazand in handicap states at Fonked (3m 11 in leazand in handicap states at Fonked (3m 11 in leazand in handicap states at Fonked (3m 11 in leazand in handicap states at Fonked (3m 11 in leazand in handicap states at Fonked (3m 11 in leazand in handicap states at Fonked (3m 11 in leazand in handicap states at Fonked (3m 12 in leadand (3m 12 in leadand (2m 12 in leada

3.10 HBLB GOODWINS HANDICAP (£2,411: 2m 1l 110yd) (11 runners)

Long handicapt Loth Deed 9-13, Ferent Hall 9-6 BETTING: 11-4 hybridge 7-2 king's Gold, 4-1 Havefrome Glen, 9-2 The Mane Captain, 10-1 Forgethal, 14-1 Persolent Burder, 16-1 others

PURGETRUL neck Saf of 7 to Nonder Valley in classing hards at Kengton (2m 110)rd, such as kengton (2m 110)rd, such as kengton (2m 110)rd, such as the Valley in 14-manus nonces: selling hards at Handson 71 in 14-manus nonces: selling hards at Handson 71 in 11, pood). HAWTHORNE SLEN beat Arctic Cile 21 in 12-manus handsop hards over course and dishable such of 3R 111s. PERSISTENT GUNNER have (spod) on body with TRAHOOL (8lb better off). As 9th. KRNS'S GOLD 1841 and of 10 to Ningdom.

3.40 CANTERBURY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,139: 2m 5l) (18 runners)

4-U CANTERBURY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,139: 2m 5l) (18 runners)
54-6111 MANERET 10 (£.6.5) (M Tabort N Cataghan 9-12-5 (5e) ... A P McCoy 96
24-3700 FARR BRUTHER 20 (D.6.5) (Mrs & Webt) (6 Balden) (10-12-0 Mr A Balding (7) 98
237-149 PARROW CASTLE 100 (6) Findon Cortel HC) J Selford 9-12-0 Mr P O'Keelle (7) 90
2371-149 DERRYMOSS 15 (V.F.8.5) (Chs.) Watch I February 1-12-0 ... D Brutymatier 87
687/P9 WILAM 14 (£.6.5) (Mrs) Watch I J Selford 9-11-7 ... P Hate
687/P9 WILAM 14 (£.6.5) (Mrs) Wordan J Beller 10-11-6 ... J J Morphy 13 209-355 MATIES 30 (£.5.5) (Mrs) Wordan J Selford 9-11-7 ... I J Morphy 13 1/6972 WATERFORD CASTLE 1D (BF.6.5) (Spot) (any Jacepol A Baley 9-11-5 J Oestome 21
1222/PD DEFFAMARIE 9 (V.6) (R Sone) Mrs L Rebards 9-11-4 ... I J Morphy 13 140015 FEMANCA 15 (F.6.5) (Masor A Peern) 8 Hodges 9-11-2 ... T Descombe (5) 90
1266501 ARD 18 (B.6.6) (A Collins) R Brue 9-11-1 ... T Descombe (5) 90
1279-44 THE MIGELSTAN 106 (F.6.5) # Hodges P Hodge 15-10-10 M Cinton (7) 90
2-65601 ALLD GEORGE 10 (6.5) (Lines Medical Systems) A Nextombe 10-10-5 A Wordan (9) 90
2-65601 ALLD GEORGE 10 (6.5) (Lines Medical Systems) A Nextombe 10-10-5 A Wordan (9) 90
2-65601 ALLD GEORGE 10 (6.5) (Lines Medical Systems) A Nextombe 10-10-5 A Wordan (9) 90
2-65601 ALLD GEORGE 10 (6.5) (Lines Medical Systems) A Nextombe 10-10-5 A Wordan (9) 90
2-65601 ARROW DANGED 19 (Lines Castle) Mrs Castle Mrs (1 Linesers 90
4 11-4 DECRRYMORE 19 (Lines Castle) Mrs Castle Mrs (1 Linesers 90
4 12-4 DESCRIPTION 10 16 (F.6.5) Postelli P Hodge 9-10-0 ... J R Karanagh —
4 bandeap, Le Denstan 9-12

Long handicap, Le Dendan 9-12
BETTIMG: 9-2 Rambow Cacile, 5-1 Maneroe, 6-1 Waterload Castle, 7-1 Funnach, 10-1 Fair Brother, 12-1 Ragian Road, Optils Instignot, 14-1 others.

MANEREE bed Boston Rover 6i in 5-runcer handicap chase at Market Rasen (2m 44, good to famil
Earlier bed Hunyup 12 in 6-runner handicap chase
at Falsenham (2m 110 du, good) with RAGLAN
RAGAD 1136 beter off) 13'41 4th RAMBOW CASTLE best eftent this zasson bed The Whlp 3i in 10tentrer handicap chase at Fentwell (2m 31, good)
RAGLAN ROAD best eftent has season 32 2nd of D
to Go Universal an handicate chase at Windsor (2m
Selection: WATERFORD CASTLE 6i 2nd of participation (2m) 10 or penaltimate start.
Selection: WATERFORD CASTLE

4.10 BONUSPRINT STANDARD NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1.459; 2m 1f 110vd) (20 runners)

2m 1f 110yd) (20 runners)

14 KENTFORD TWA 59 (G) (D Bare) J Madine 5-11-9 D Curran (S) CHECKS AND STREPES (D Rosa) C Weedon 5-11-7 G Hogan (S) DACELO (B Harre) D Snewcood 5-11-7 D Thomas (7) DONT MEND F (O) DIM S J Addesos) P Webber 5-11-7 Mer P Scott (7) DOUBLE ACHEVEMENT (Mas C Parthog) M Fep 6-11-7 D Burrows (7) 4 FERRERS 43 (J Berl) Mes P Sh 5-11-7 Met F McCarlot (F) 4 FERRERS 43 (J Berl) Mes P Sh 5-11-7 Met T McCarlot (F) GERRYCS PROBE (G Heart) 6 Badding 5-11-7 Met T McCarlot (F) GERRYCS PROBE (G Heart) 6 Badding 5-11-7 Mr A Badding (7) MILERSTORD (Ms D Fletcher) N Gaselee 5-11-7 F Dopper (7) MISTER (EDIETOSTY (P Evers) C Weedon 5-11-7 D Forn (5) MASONE (J Packett) J Gildod 5-11-7 Mr P O'Keeffe (7) ROYAR RAVEN IA Welles J Giftod 5-11-7 Mr P O'Keeffe (7) SCABROOK (JD) (Seabrook Partners) M Wilanzon 5-11-7 P Crowley (7) THREE FARTHMOS (A Britten) J Old 6-11-7 RV S Bauses (7) MS S GABROOK (JD) J Ditt 0-11-7 AR S Bauses (7) STARDAY'S OUEST (T Jones) T Jones 4-10-11 Mr J Callot (S) SPLENDO THYME (J Bausenon) B Hosay 4-10-11 Mr J Callot (7) STARDAY'S OUEST (T Jones) T Jones 4-10-11 D Finnerjan (7) RUSALEE ROYALE (Mr S Develop Mer M Long 4-10-6 B Fengar (3) SILLY POWT MAS N Lasta) P Battle 4-10-6 B Fengar (3) SILLY POWT MAS N Lasta) P Battle 4-10-6 Mr S Kantdod Tima, 8-1 P

BETTRICS: 7-2 Double Achievement, 4-1 Royal Reven, 5-1 Daceto 6-1 Wise King Kentland Tina, 8-1 Three Fartherps, 12-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

KENTFORD TINA 7% I 4th ol 15 to Mighly Mass in National Hunt Flat race at Humbrigdon (2m 110yd, 110yd, Neavy) good to soil). FERRERS 24 4th ol 17 to Micker Selection: KENTFORD TINA

L		(OUR	SE S	PECIALISTS	i		
TRAINER N Henders M Pipe R Ainer S Dow J Gittore Mrs D Ha	an	Wins 5 9 4 4 15 4	Rnrs 16 30 17 18 68 24	313 300 235 225 221 167	JOCKEYS D Budgsaler M Richalds R Durnstody P Hide C Liewellyn M A Fragetald	Wireners 5 6 10 5 3	Rates 20 23 51 29 19	% 25 0 21 4 19 6 17 2 15 8 13 D

By Philip Howard

Notice what happens if you Sport and in the Weekend

AGILA a. A legionary archer b. A resin c. Sun-dried ostrich steak

DOUROUCOULI

a. Sesame seed dip b. A Turkish messenger

c. A nocturnal monkey

CARBONADO a. Flogging the feet b. A beef stew c. An opaque diamond DUPLEX QUERELA a. A quarrel with neighbours b. A thin party wall c. Twofold complaint

Answers on page 38



4 Nxd4 5 Nc3

8 0-0

14 . e5 15 Ne4 16 Ch5

19 Od5 20 Og5 21 Rea1

25 e8 . 28 ext7

29 gd5 30 Kg1 31 Ce7+ 32 Re6 33 Nxg6 34 Nxe7+ 35 Nxc6

Nxg7

BY RAYMOND KEENE

Sicilian problems

The Sicilian Defence is Black's most ambitious counter to White's king pawn opening. It has been a favourite of such aggressive world champions as Mikhail Tal. Bobby Fischer and, of course, Carry Kasparov. By playing 1, ... c5, Black immediately stakes a claim in the centre that White claim in the centre that White standardly challenges with 3, 21 Ree1 d4, as in this game from Wijk 22 Na5+

aan Zee. " The strategic situation in the Sicilian tends to be that Black has a compact pawn centre and chances in the open offile - advantages that come to the fore if Black can survive to the endgame phase. However, as Dr Tarrasch, that great chess teacher, once wrote: Before

the endgame, the Gods have placed the middlegame. This is precisely Black's problem in the Sicilian Although his strategic chances are to be preferred. White's free development gives him ample opportunity for tactical skirmishing and disruptive sacrifices. The win by Topalov, the Bulgarian grandmaster who captured third prize at Wijk aan Zee, is a case in point.

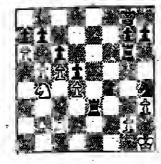
White: Veselin Topalov Black: Robert Hubner Wijk aan Zee, January 1996 Sicilian Defence

EM

Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday. 3 d4 ENHANC MOVE By Raymond Keene

Black to move. This position is from the game Selesniev -Reti, Bad Pistyan, 1922. Can you spot how Black swiftly infiltrated the white kingside to score a quick knockout?

Solution on page 38



form right

on cue to

put Welsh

title in sight

BY PHIL YATES

DAVE HAROLD was at a

loss to explain his sudden.

and dramatic improvement in form after beating Darren. Morgan 5-2 m the quarter-finals of the Regal Welsh Open snooker tournament in

lewport yesterday. Morgan's demise left John

Parrott as the only player from the top ten in the world rankings to survive and, on

the evidence of his latest performance. Harold, who

eliminated Stephen Hendry

in the previous round, could now repeat his triumph at the 1993 Asian Open. Yet, he arrived in South Wales totally

devoid of confidence after

devoid of connected aneases wifering first-round defeats in the opening four world ranking tournaments of the 1995-96 campaign.

That did out change despite

beating Tony Jones 5-3 and, from 4-1 in arrears, Cart Payne 5-4. "I don't know how I got through because I was playing the most atrocious snooker of my career," Har-

The metamorphosis occurred during his 5-3 defeat of Hendry, the world champion, oo Tuesday. "Something just clicked in my head but I don't

know why: it's a mental thing

and this game is all between

the ears," Harold, who has

fallen from thirteenth to 22nd

in the provisional rankings

against Morgan as he led 2-0

Slow play flusters Welshman hoping to capitalise on good early form

Woosnam made to wait for resurgence

GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN PERTH

IAN WOOSNAM left Singapore on the crest of a wave after his victory in the opening event of the PGA European Tour on Sunday. He began the Heineken Classic here yesterday with a zestful round that suggested that the 2,500-mile journey had not diminished his form, nor had the dry. intense heat of Western Australia, where the temperature was more than 90F, sapped

Playing in a black cap perched against the fierce sun and otherwise dressed in white, Woosnam made light of some of the tricklest holes at The Vines, a difficult course that was playing at its most challenging. A 69, three under par, was infinitely better than Woosnam had expected when he was two over par after

Woosnam is a man who likes to get on with things. He talks, eats, walks and drives quickly and, when he has to stand still and watch others on a golf course, he is as restless as a little boy forced to remain indoors and eat his cabbage while his friends are enjoying themselves outside in the garden. Yesterday, he could only fidget; leaning on his club, shifting his weight from one leg to the other, flicking at the perspiration in his face.

Woosnam is a quicker player than most and slow play annoys him - yesterday, it was very slow. He was annoyed that his round had taken 51, hours to complete and said so. "Everyone is taking far too much time fiddling and faffing around," he said, "and it is not getting any better. Nothing is being done about it. I reckon 42 hours is plenty, 54 hours is



Woosnam has to sit it out as another hold-up hinders his promising progress in the opening round of the Heineken Classic at The Vines

At times, Woosnam made it look easy: never more so than on the par-five 18th, where, with elegant strokes of a driver and a six-iron, he hit his ball to within 15 feet and then holed for an eagle. Yet appearances were deceptive. "I find this course very difficult," he said.

Everywhere I want to go is a John Daly knew the feeling. He was so intimidated by the

bunkers that gnaw into the

fairways at precisely the point where he did not want them to that his round of 71 was achieved without the use of a wood. His "Killer Whale" metat driver remained sheathed all day.

Woosnam dared use his driver on only eight driving holes; five more than Greg Norman, who recorded a 73.

much. However, Cornel

Marculescu, the director of

"Seems a bit odd to me to build a course where you can hardly ever use your driver," Nor-

Still, if it is not one Greg, then it is another. While most eyes were looking to see if Norman would yield a divi-dend on the Aus\$ 300,000 (about £150,000) that he is reported to have been paid to appear in this event. Greg Turner sped to the front of the

since he won a tournament in Majorca last March. His 66, tournaments. six under par. put him jointly in the lead with Wayne Smith.

Smith is in form and a local

hero. He has lived in this part

of Western Australia for years

and finished second in this

event for the past two years.

Turner, on the other hand,

though born in Dunedin, has

hardly played in Australia and New Zealand lately

Woodhall seeks right to title

struggling for six of them to

take control. Woodhall said:

"He did give me some reason

for concern, but I did not have

much preparation for a south-

paw — only a couple of weeks as Wormald was called in as a

As World Boxing Council

replacement.

Andrew Coltart, the runnerup to Woosnam on Sunday. achieved a golfing rarity of a round made up of 18 pars; shades of Nick Faldo at Muirfield in the fourth round of the 1987 Open. "If you're going to do it, then it's better to do it on a course like this one." Ken Schofield, the executive director of the PGA European

thanks to runs of 72 and 81 but Morgan produced a 143 total clearance in the third-frame, the highest break compiled in the event.

At 2-2, it was a difficult match to predict, but Harold dominated the closing three frames to secure a place in the best-of-II frames semi-final against Mark Williams this first appearance in the last four since the 1994 Skoda Grand Prix.

Morgan, who aggregated only 33 points during his post-interval collapse, was particularly disappointed to have title. I need another couple of fights first. By June, 'south-paw' will be tattooed on my squandered what he regarded as a "gelden opportunity" to

win on home soil.

Although Morgan, whose home, in Cwmfelinfach, is only ten miles away from the venue, is now a strong favourest-break prize, such a financial prospect provided no consolation. "I'd give the money away if I could win that match," he said.

Harold hits Henman reaches new ATP heights

TIM HENMAN beat Mark Petchey, his Great Britain Davis Cup colleague, 6-1, 7-6 in the Shanghai Open tennis tournament to reach the semi-finals of an ATP tournament. for the first time yesterday. Henman, 21, the No 2 seed, ranked No 84 in the world, is certain to rise in the world rankings this month.

Henman plays Andrei Olhovskiy, of Russia, the No 6 seed, who defeated Cristiano Caratti, of Italy, 6-3, 6-4, on Saturday, Jeff Tarango, the No I seed, noted for his walkout and £10,000 fine at Wimbledon last year, beat Danny Sapsford, of Surrey, 5-7, 6-0, 6-3, in the second round yesterday. He beat Jeremy Bates in straight sets on

Lomas returns

Table tennis: Lisa Lomas has regained the England women's No I spot after successful-Olympic qualifying tourna-ment in Manchester with nine wins. Lomas, 28, is 66 points ahead of Andrea Holt. the England champioo, who still has the knee injury that cost her a singles berth in Atlanta in July. Lomas and Holt will bid to qualify for the Olympic women's doubles in Names, from February 9 to 10. The top four men retain their positions, with Matthew Syed, the No I, ahead of Alan Cooke, Chen Xinhua and Carl Prean.

this season, said.

Harold could not have wished for a better start Young big hitters Cricket: Maiden centuries by Noci Gie, who made 118, and Owais Shah, who was unbeaten on 114, took England to 335 for five in their first innings. and a lead of 192, at the close of the second day of the third and final under-19 international. match against Zimbabwe in

Seles sweeps in

Tennis: Monica Seles, the No 1 seed, cruised into the quarter-finals of the Pan Pacif-ic indoor tournament in Tokyo yesterday by beating Irma Spirlea, of Romania, 6-4, 6-2.

Run on money Athletics: The British federation has secured a £1 million. three-year extension of the E2 million deal with Securicor, announced last month, and helps ease an expected six-figure loss for last

year

Foster awaiting drug ruling

ain's leading sprint swimmer, is waiting to hear whether a three-month suspension imposed yesterday for a positive test for cannabis taken in France last summer would disrupt his campaign for the Olympic Games in Atlanta (Craig Lord writes). The French Swimming Federation's technical committee has to decide whether the disciplinary action, imposed by France's independent sports doping commission, should be

retroactive or start this month. The latter interpretation would exclude Foster, 25, from the British grand prix meeting

RUGBY UNION

(at Myreside, Edinburgh, 2 30)

Scotland v France (at Myreside, Edunburgh, 1 0)

Lamsler v New South Wales (at Lansdowne Road, 7.15)

Representative matches

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Under-21 international

A international

Tour match

that begins today at Cardiff. the World Cup final in Germany a week tomorrow and the British Olympic trials at Sheffield next month. Foster has maintained that the tiny traces of cannabis found in his sample could have occurred only through passive smoking. He attended a commission hearing in France last week and, with the Amateur Swimming Federation of

France. He had had an earlier letter from Fina, the international the hearing believing every-governing body, saying as thing was fine and dandy."

England Students v Wales Students (at Rosslyn Park RFC, 7 0)

TENNENTS CHAMPIONSHIP: Regioned League: West Glasgow Southern v Kirner-nock, East; South Peobles v Sollork.

Fina, said yesterday that Britain had misunderstood the rules. We await France's decision and will respect our member's action," he said. The ban would be worldwide, but I very much believe it will A French federation spokesman said: "I carnot tell you

the dates of the suspension because we have not discussed Great Britain, had understood that the action would exclude it yet." He confirmed that one him only from competition in month would be suspended. Dave Haller, Foster's coach,

said: "Mark came back from

FOOTBALL

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First

division: Shoethern v Southwick (7 30)
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Addition Victory
Shield under-15 internationat: England v
Wales (at Portamouth FC, 7.15) English
Schools Goodyear under-18 Trophy: Park
House, Barkshre v Court Moor, Hampshre
(1 45) English girls' Vimto under-16

European middleweight boxing champion from Telford. will have to go back to school to learn how to deal with southpaws after his perfor-mance against Derek Wor-mald on Tuesday (Srikumar

Sen writes).

In spite of a distinguished amateur career - he won a Commonwealth Games gold medal and an Olympic bronze, losing to Roy Jones. regarded as the best boxer in the world today - Woodhall has problems with southpaws. He stopped Wormald, 29, in the tenth round of the contest at Aston Villa, but only after

No I contender, Woodball has a world title bout in June against Quincy Taylor, the champion, who not only leads with his right but also has a knockout punch. From now on, it will be

nothing but learning how to beat Taylor. Mickey Duff, Woodhall's manager, said: "I think I'll give him one volun-

As the Telford man was barely able to land a blow for the first six rounds, attempting to get past the right of Wormald, he will need to.

paw and then give up the

European title to concentrate

on Taylor." Woodhall said:

'I'm not ready for the world

Wormald suffered a truly tragic blow when he learnt after the bout that Peter McEllhinney, his trainer, who collapsed in the corner with a heart attack, had died.

BASKETBALL

BOXING

CRESTA RUN

FOOTBALL

Second division: Braction 2 Crews 1.
AUTO WHOSCREENS STEELD: Southern section send-final: Strewsbury Town 4.
Herefort Links 1.
CONFERENCE: Geleshead 3.
Morecambe 0.

Morksambe 0
TENNENTS SCOTTISH CUP: Theird round: Hamilton 0 St. Johnstone 1; Hearts 1 Parick 0; Clyde 3 Dundee 1.
BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First dialetor: St. Mitten: 0 Greenock Morion 1.
Second chistoric East File 1 Ousen of South 2 Third division: Breath of Arbreath 1; East String 1 Alos 0.
AFRICAN MATIONS CUP: Secol-finalis; Tunsie 4 Zameia 2 (at Durbon); South Ahra 3 Ottona 0 (in Achametory).
OCEANIA OLYMPIC OUALIFYING TOUR-NAMENT: Australia 0 New Zesland 1 (in Adessade).

Wednesday's late results

FODAY'S FIXTURES Rivals vie for Vase OTHER SPORT spotlight BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF RELAND: Premier division: Shebourne v Deny (7.45)

The clubs are jostling at the

o yield the limelight in the

tage against Barwell, of the Selby Town 3-0 in a second replay, must travel to Brigg

NAMENT: Australia o New Zesland 1 (in Adelade).

SPANISH CUP: Cuarter final, stast leg: Tenerife 0 Adelade Medical 0.

PORTUGUESE CUP: Stath round: Sporting Liction 4 Camponistorense 1; Vidia Gunsarias 1 Belerariass 0: Maritimo 2 Villa Real 0. Lamego 1 FC Porto 1

CIS LEACUE: Premier division: Harrow 1 Bromley 3: Final division: Russip Marior 2 Bognor Regis 0

FA TROPHY: First round: Second replays: Dover 1 Chellerinam 0.

LEAGUE OF WALES; League Cup: Broup one: first round: Porthristing 3. Bengar Cay 0. ther upbeavals two years ago when its social committee dismissed the manager. The football committee resigned, but John Mitchell, who had been with the chab since its formation, in 1960, formed a new committee and brought in Dalton Steele as manager.

Cay 0.

SMERNOFF RISH LEAGUE: Float division:
Lame 0 Beaveners 0.

SUNUFF GOLD CUP: Sens-host:
Citomise 2 Limited (that has taken Flixton out of the second division as champions into direct confrontation with Trafford. The clubs have yet to meet in the league. but Flixton won the first part of the on-field argument 3-1 in the Manchester Premier Cup on Tuesday.

Harloquire Q, REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: Old Boys Leigue 3 London Pinandel FA 1, PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE First division: Manchester United 2 Blackburn Rower, 1, Second division; Preston 2: Rotherhem D, Sunderstand 2 Leicester D, York 1 Hudderstield 1. FA YOUTH CUP. Third round replay: Enfield 0 Hereford 2.

SCHOOLS MATCH: KCS Wimbledon 6 Seeland 3; Bryanston 4 Million Abbey 1. ICE HOCKEY

RUGBY LEAGUE SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Devisionly 12 London Broncos 10

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES; Civil Service 24 Royal Navy 40; Combined London OB 24 RAF 14. SNOOKER

NEWPORT: Regal Welch Open: Quarter-finals: M Williams (Walce) bt P Ebdon (Engl 5-3; J Penoti bt G Dots (Scot) 5-2: D Harold (Engl bt O Morgen (Walce) 5-2. SWIMMING

SHANGHAR Men's tournement Second round: J Tensingo (US) bi 0 Secolard (GB) 5-7, 6-1, 6-3, M Ondhusig (SA) bit Jonsson (SMe) 6-3, 6-1. Ouennellinsk T Henman (SB) bi M Patchay (GB) 6-1, 7-8. Cash is a resurrence (as) 6-7, 26.

ZAGRIES: Men's tournement: First round:
G Enget (Fr) bt D Princel (Gen) 6-2, 7-8; 6.

Nemberld: (Cro) bt C Raud (Not) 6-4, 7-6.

Second round: F de Whit. (Sel) bt A

Gaudenz (N) 6-3, 6-3; C Prince (Fr) bt J Ven

Herri: (Se) 8-3, 6-3; C-U Seeti (Ser) bt M

Dermin (Cc) 2-5, 5-4, 7-5; Fotopst bt T

Kempers (Not) 7-6, 6-4; G Redux (Fr) bt T

Carbonal (Sp) 4-6, 6-2, 8-1. o-c, 5-4.

LIPPSTADT, Germany: ATP Challenger, tourneapent (selected result): Second round; R Vesek (C2) bt C Wildmann (G8), 6-1, 6-7, 6-2.

THE MENTIMES

RACING Call 0891 500 123

Call 0891 100 123

nock, East; South Peables v Sallark, CLUB MATCHES: Aberlillary v Blarra (7.0); Askasins v Park House, Bedford v Saracaria (8.0), Berry Hill v Sroud (7.0); Buith Wels v Landovely (7.8), Cambridge Link v Sala (7.15), Cross Keys v Tredepar (7.0), Gala v Kelso (7.15), Glarothes v Karkradidy (7.0); Gloucester v Portypool (7.0), Jed-Forest v Melrose (7.15), Langholm v Hawck (7.0); Locaster v Covernity (7.15), Lichtleid v Stoke (2.0), Lindovith v Pyle (7.0), Londovith v South Welse Police, Lydrey v Moseley (7.0), Aussolburgh v Dunkermine LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICES

 NOTICE IS HERESY CIVEN that frivate Patients Plan Limited applied to the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on 1st February 1996 for his approval, pursuant to Part II of Schedule 2C to the Industry contents Act 1982, to transfer to FPP healthcare 4i of its rights and obligations under policies written by it in the United Kingdom on or before 3 lst laurary 1996 except policies where the kingdom on or before 3 lst laurary 1996 except policies where the sky is staurard outside the United Kingdom.

2. Copies of the statement of particulars of the purposed transfer are available for inspection at any of the following locations until 4th March 1996 from Mondays to Fridays between the hours of 9.00 am and 5.00pm:

Tembridge Walls

Private Patients Plan Limited

Private Patients Plan Limited Private Pasients Plan Limited (PPP healthcare) Tavistock House South Tavistock Square London WC 1H 9LJ

tors names and address Gareth Howard Hushes and Stephen Igmee Lister Adamson. Errat & Young Becket House. I Lambeth Palace Road, London SE, 172U Date of appointment SE January 1996. By whom appointed bercantile House
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beautiful Limited
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the observation
The creditors of the abovenamed company are requisited on
before 2.1 February 1996 to
berrich their names, addresses and
particulars of their claims to the
undersigned, the iolail laquators
of the company. 2 Drist &

ADVANCE LIBRITED PREVIOUSLY AUTOVEYOR LIBRITED
Principal Tryding Andrews Monerch Buddurge, Reance Reed,
Wigston, Lettester, LES 250,
Company Number 0137206
NOTICE IS MEREBY GIVEN,
Pirsuani to Section 99 of the
insolvency Act 1995, that a meetling of the creditors of the abovenamed company will be held at
The Jarvis Grant Morel, Granty
Street, Lettester, LE1 685 on 14
February 1996 at 11 00 am for
the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the insolvency
Act 1996.
A list of names and addresses of
the remissant's Creditors will be
available for insoccition free of
charge at Detailite 4, Touche of 52
John's House, East Street, Leicher
ter, LE1 6NG during the revolution
ined days preceding the above
meeting ineciago Detod: 30 January 1996. By ORDER OF THE BOARD. J A Stabler. Director

The meetings will be field as for lower.
Date: 5 March 1996,
Tinne: 10 15 am thembers:
10 30 am torethors:
11 the New Street. Leadon ECAA 3TR
A member or creditor anditied and sole on this behalf. This must be lodged with rise not later than 12 moon on the business day before the meeting.
Dated. 1 February 1996.
C. MORRES. Leaddalor CHOPLES ALESTATED INN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY LIQUIDATION:

Roott Zukha Group Limuted Registered Number: 2706285, Technology Limited School 2000-2005, Technology Limited School 2000-2005, Technology Limited and wholesale. Trade Classification, 17. Dele of Appointment of Administrative Receivers). 25 January 1996. Name of porson appointing the Administrative Receivers's National Westminister Bank gic. Type of Security. Fixed and floating Charge Debenium. Date of Security: 23 October 1996 Name of porsons 2000-2001. LA Mannung 2001-2001. Charge Debenium. 2000-2001. LA Mannung 2001-2001. Charge Debenium. 2000-2001. Charge Debenium. 2001-2001. Cha

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1996
18 A FARRICATIONS LINGTED
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
PURSUAID IO Section 96 of the
insolvency Act 1996 Dust a
MEETING of the CREDITORS of
the above named Company will
be held on 15 February 1996 at
4. Charlerhouse Square, London
ECI IM 6EN at 12 00 noon for the
purposet mentioned in Section 99
et use of the said Act.
NOTICE IS FLETTIER GIVEN
that Materice Roymond
Dorrington, FIPA of 4.
Charlerhouse Square, London,
ECI IM 6EN is superinted to act as
the qualified inches many Practicioner gurenant to Section 98 (2) fau
of the said Act who will furtish
Creditors, free of charge, with
such information concerning the
Company's affairn as they may
reasonable and concerning the
Company's affairn as they may
reasonable of the BOARD
A. COOPER, Director.

addresses of the companies creditors will be a salable for poper-tion free of charge at Touche Rose & Co. of 91 John's House, East Street, Levester, LEI BANG garring the two basseress days preceding the two basseress days preceding the glove meetings.

Dated 30m January 1996.
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J. A STABLER, Director

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THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

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OTHER SPORT
ATNLETICS: AAA indoor championships
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BASKETBALL: Budwelser Leagues:
London Towers v Birmangham Bufets (8.0).
BOWLS: Mastes pars (Co Aram).
HOCKEY: AEWHA indoor championships: Under-18: Group A: Coopers,
Cotorn, Panaley RC, Wakefield GH, Herry
Cot. Budstaven Group B: Tortandge GS.
The Chase, Carterior RG, Newlands,
Gordano (Crystal Palacs, 30).
SNOOKER: Regal Wesh Open (Newpon).
SWIMMING: British grand pror mesting
(Carcilli NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE RIVALRY does not come much more intense than that between Flixton and Trafford. The extra edge to the inevitable competition between clubs that lie little more than a mile apart in Manchester comes from Trafford's birth just six 0171-782 7344

years ago as a new venture by disaffected members of Flix-

top of the North West Counties League, Flixtoo heading the first division with Trafford in fourth place, eight points behind but with four matches in hand. Nor is either dub prepared

fifth round of the FA Carisberg Vase tomorrow. It is a rare feat to reach the last 16 of a national cup competition, but, when Flixton managed it for the first time. Trafford, in their third Vase season, did so too. Flixton have home advan-

Midland Alliance, at their Valley Road ground. Traf-ford, having finally seen off Towa, another Northern Counties East League side. Flixton went through fur-

Steele, a former assistant manager at Stalybridge Celtic, launched a roll of success

Centerwise 2 Linfeld I
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: Fine division: Ipowich 0 Bristol Cay 3, Norwich 2
Crystal Paisca 0, Oxford Utd 0 Portsmouth 0, Wirmbedon 1 Millered 1, Second division: Swansea 1 Bath 1, Plymouth 2 Bourne-mouth 0
Spainter MOLINIO SPRINGHEATH FRINT CAPITAL LEAGUE: Combridge Util 3 Convicy 2 Calogistm 2 Breatland 2 Worksham 1 Barnet 2 Presidents out Second round: Working Dileyton Orient 5 COMBRIDE COUNTES LEAGUE. Premier division: Februar 2 Peppard 4. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First divi-

NAME OF THE PERSON NAME OF THE PERSON NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Prosels 120 Atlanta 54: Boston 131 Vancouver 98; Cleveland 81 Milwautee 71; Utah 98 Portland 94; San Arronio 115 LA Clappers 108.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE Manchester 68 Sheffeld 91. Enfield 0 Herstord 2: SCHOOLS MATCHES: FA Premier League under-18 Trophy; Surrey 0 Kont 2: English Schools FA Shickers under-18 Trophy; Flast rounct Hempton (Surrey) 1: Enth (Kent) 2: King Alired's (Oxon) 1: Bourneside (Gloucs) 0. Second round: Christ The King (Inner Landon) 4: Borden (SS (Kent) 0. BRIMENGHAM: European middleweight champtonethe: Richie Woodhafi (Teiford, holder) bit Derek Wormald (Rochder) er: 10th Cruteer (Binds): Robert Norton (Storebodge) bit Gery Williams (Notingham) ivo 2nd. Möddle (5 mals) Howerd Eastmen (Betterseq) bit Peul Westey (Birmingham) en 1st. Super-festher (6 mids): Brain Robb (Teiford) bit Chris Lyons (Birmingham) pts.

PRINCE PHILP TROPHY: 1, RAF 587.22500; 2. Royal Navy 700.08; 3, Army 712.78

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GOLF

PERTH: Heinelean Classic: First round (Australia Liviese stated): 68: W Smith, G furrer (PC), 67: R Gitauon (Cs), 68: M Owite (Eng.), G leaver (Eng.), A Humar (Sood), 68: S Laybock, O HR, M Letton (Eng.), R Perriping, C Jones, J Lornas (Eng.), F Maziguchi (Japon), P McGinley (Irel), S Hughes, J Woosman (Walea), F Robillo (PZ), S Bottomiey (Eng.), D Perdon, 70: R Sephans, A Streetone (Eng.), M Googris, B Ogle, S Robertone (Eng.), M Googris, B Ogle, S Robertone (Eng.), S Tait, C Dannis (US), M Jorton (Swe), S Tait, C Dannis (US), M Jorton (Swe), S Tait, C Dannis (US), A Morton (Swe), S Tait, C Dannis (US), A Morton (Swe), S Tait, C Dannis (US), A Street (Pro), A Palmer, P O'Malley, R Green, O Robertson (Scot), L Waste, T1: M Roberts, J Serior, J Townread (US), A Strize, O Cole, E Droop, K Valentine, J Daly (US), R Willia, I Pymen (Eng.), S Bouwar, O Robertson, Goot), L Waste, P March (US), A Strize, C Cole, E Droop, K Valentine, J Daly (US), R Willia, I Pymen (Eng.), S Bouwar, O Robertson, Ford, P Robertson, S Leerey, S Porch, Other scores; 72: G Ort (Scot), A Coltant (Scot), O Dens (Eng.), T S S Webster (Eng.), R Burns (Nort), C Tait (Eng.), P Reserved (Eng.), P Reser

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (N-L): Buttalo B Florida 1: Montreal 5 Westington 3; Boston 3 Ottave 1: Tampe Bey 4 Pitisburgh 1: St Louis 4 Toronto 0; Dalles 1 NY Rengers 1 (OT): Chicago 4 Edmonson 0; Anshem 2 Colorado 1: Heritod 8 Los Angeles 4. SPITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Dus-ham 10 Humberside 3.

NORDIC SKIING ASIAGO, Italy: world justice disamplon-ships: Iden (10km): 1, P Episson (Swe) 27min 42.80se; 2, M Bejecack (Slovalda) 2746 30, 3, S Canara (10) 2504.95 (Monten (Skm): 1, M Puuldeinen (Fin) 15.01.80; 2, K Smigun (Ed.) 15.24.20; 3, J Tohepalova (Russ) 15.25.70.

REAL TENNIS HATFIELD HOUSE: Herry Last public schools doubles championainip: Semi-finals: Charteriouse (M. Pendingh and A. Potosta-Maler) by Windowser B (M. Wanti and H. Angus) 6-3 6-1. Halleybury (P. Gorm and W. Holsfeglow) by Windowser I (A. Levell and P. Seabrook) 6-4 6-5

Asprilla's . transfer blocked by insurance

BY DAVID MADDOCK

NEWCASTLE United's intended £7.6 million purchase of Faustino Asprilla, the Colombia international, has reached an impasse because of complications with insurance. The player's proposed transfer from Parma has been delayed for nearly a week, with little prospect of an immediate sol-

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The reason, it transpires, is that Newcastle have been unable to secure adequate insurance cover for a player who will command such a significant fee. Scans taken of Asprilla's knee at the medical. that he underwent last Friday revealed a congenitial prob-lem that could lead to an arthritic condition.

The problem is unlikely to affect the forward's performance in the foreseeable future and Newcastle are still en to complete the deal. The lub's insurance company. however, is unwilling to provide cover for a player rated



Asprilla: knee condition

"among the most expensive in the world when he is suffering a condition that has implications for his playing future.

It leaves the FA Carling Premiership leaders with a dilemma that they are unable to solve at present. They have given their word to complete the deal, but are unable to do so because they cannot take the gamble of paying such a huge fee for a player without the safety net of insurance. Efforts continue to thrash out and he doesn't deserve the a compromise with the insur-

Sources in Parma confirmed last night that the insurance issue had become a sticking block "We under-- stand that Newcastle are attempting to find a way of negotiating a solution to the problem and we are hopeful - the deal will still go ahead." the club's media spokesman

Newcastle had imposed a news blackout on the deal over the past seven days, but they threat of ground closure.

when Sir John Hall, the club chairman, confirmed that,

while the situation had reached an impasse, they were

still hopeful of completing the "The board are handling negotiations as they always do when they get to this stage. The said. There are still a number of matters to be resolved to our satisfaction. We are running a business and we must be left

to get on with it."
Sir John dismissed as "absolute rubbish" suggestions that the medical examination uncovered separate problems relating to Asprilla's private life.
The player's advisors are looking into such accusations to see if they are actionable.

The player's advisors are clearly worried that the insur-ance question may eventually scupper the deal. Parma officials were reported to be on their way to Newcastle last night. with evidence that they sug-gest will prove that the knee problem will have no bearing on the forward's career. "He could play for 15 years without being affected," the spokesman said.

Eric Cantona returns to Selhurst Park tomorrow for his first visit since the infamous night, a year ago, when he ventured into the Crystal Palace crowd and kicked a supporter. Police have contingency plans to deal with any Palace suppporters attempting to attend Manchester United's fixture with Wimbledon intent on causing trouble. Peter Schmeichel, the Uni-

ted goalkeeper; believes that such measures should not be necessary. He attempted to appease any rogue supporters by pleading with them to understand the Frenchman. "People have only one picture of Bric - it is that he is a bully," he said. "They say he is good at football; but he is a

hooligan. -- This completely untirue. He is a gentleman. I see a very different person from the picture that has been painted. I know him. I train with him image. I'm not saying that I would have gone into the crowd, but I fully understand why he did it. The pressure on him is enormous. ☐ Birmingham City will today aim to persuade an FA

commission of inquiry not to close their St Andrew's ground when they answers charges of misconduct over crowd trou-ble there when they played Millwall on November 4. If found guilty. Birmingham face a heavy fine and the

Tunisia revel in the sound of silence



Two young spectators leave no doubt as to where their loyalties lie as South Africa, Bafana Bafana, take on Ghana. Photograph: Juda Ngwenya

n South Africa, soccer is a black game. The receptionist in the hotel where I am staying said: "I am keen on soccer; it is the same as hockey, so I understand it." Around her, the others sbook their heads and said: "It's not like rugby or cricket."

. That was earlier in the week. What makes the African Nations Cup final tomor-row required viewing (and has sold out the 80,000 capacity Johannesburg Soccer City Stadium) is that the national team, known as Bafana Bajana (the boys), has made it to the last shoot-out: won their group, beat Algeria in the quarter final, demolished the Black Stars of Ghana in the send and have only Tunisia between them and

> Tunisia do not even have a nickname. Tunisia are only 31st in the world rankings. Tunisia have a Polish manager. The average age of Turnisia's team is 22. Were a Tunisian club coach shipping in supporters for the final, it would have to have left teri days ago ... so they are lonely and unloved, and also considered plum lucky to have beaten Gabon on penalties to enter the last four. On Wednesday afternoon,

they were due to exit this mighty Zambia at the Kingsmead rugby stadium in Durban, and as forecasts about attendance were pessimistic — less of a follow-thecrowd than a what-time-canyou-get-along occasion - I

My driver dropped me where the police had erected a road block a quarter of a mile from the stadium, and I shoffled past the car parks towards the entrance. There were two stalls selling fast food, one man and his daughter offering African caps and African flags. Nobody selling programmes; there were no programmes. In the shortish queue to the turnstiles, a man wearing a jacket marked Speciator Assistance me a cursory body check and told the man behind me that he could not bring in his can of Coca-Cola - bottles would

Admission was 20 or 35 Rand (you get about six to the pound) and I opted for the higher price inside the huge stadium, pobody examined the small print on the ticket and, as the new North Stand was bathed in 90-degree sunshine and deserted, I took my seat in the less than half-full



South Stand, When the teams came out, my neighbours and all their neighbours gave Zambia the big hello so I asked about the connection between the people of Durban and what had been Northern Rhodesia.

We are all Africans, not Arabs; anyway, they useless, they not here for long." There was a lot of smiling

and waving of the new African flag. I had bought one: I waved it. Zambia were the classy footballers; bot favourites.

They knew that they would win: wanted to show their Afro-supporters how it is done. Tunisia had a solid defence and played honest football. On the halfway line, there was a trestle table with a starched white cloth. Three men in suits sat behind it like officials at a Haitian cockfight, or uncles sitting out a déjeuner sur l'herbe.

We were 14 minutes into the game when Tunisia scored: a soft goal, more of a cross that snuck behind the keeper, and as this was just what those who had come did not want to see, the event was met with silence. The silence intensified when Tunisia scored again after a pathetic defensive mix-up and now the crowd was whistling, which is like Brits booing the noise similar to that at the cage birds show at Blackpool which used to precede the Liberal Party assembly.

Talf-time: as in the Windmill Theatre, people vaulted over seats, though here it was not to get closer to the stage. They went to the bars to return with cans of drink and the couple in front of me with a polystyrene box containing a polystyrene bun filled with a pink plastic

Second-balf: Tunisia scored again. The whistling got worse. The Tunisian goalkeeper, who is also their captain, had an argument

with the referee about a Zambia trainer who had gone onto the field. Elsewhere, players were falling over and staying in situ until they were stretchered off ... to bounce

up and rejoin the game. Zambia pulled one back, shooting at the keeper who stopped it with his chin, saw the rebound slammed into the net and lay oo the ground for

Now, the game came to life, speeded up: every Zambia attack cheered by the crowd. for 1-3 was a deficit that could be made up.
Tunisia defended, all 11
men to their own half, and

still looked dangerous on the breaks. At the end of this golden period, they were awarded a penalty, and

To trail 4-1 with not long to go is beyond redemption and, by the time of the final whistle, just after a 93rdminute goal from the Africans, not too many of us were left in the ground. As latecomers had parked

their cars across the entrance to the car parks, there were an awful lot of people outside. sort of angry and sad but looking forward to their real heroes making it all better tomorrow afternoon.

Financial support for Super League improved

By Christopher Irvine

ALTHOUGH it pales in comparison to the £87 million being spent over five years on the Super League, a £1.7 million sponsorship of the new summer rugby league competition, announced yesterday, is not an insignificant sum on the part of Stones, its provider.

Rather than going direct to the clubs, who are receiving the entire budget of the Super League agreement with The News Corporation, parent company of The Times, the new three-year deal will cover operational costs incurred by the Rugby Football League (RFL). An additional £300,000 will go on a promotional campaign.

The source of prize-money for the inaugural Super League season, which starts at the end of next month, has still to be worked out. Another unresolved detail is support sponsors for the first and second divisions, as the Stones brand name of Bass brewers. which has covered the divisions for a decade, will be on

the Super League alone. Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, said that there was considerable interest from at least one potential backer. "This was triggered by Super League, but there is an opportunity for companies to look at the whole of our game," he said. "There are other competitions, such as the world club championship."
The climax to the domestic

season, to be contested by the leading four sides in the 12-team Super League, will be the Stones Cup, a name change from the end-of-season Premiership, which will culminate in a final at Old Trafford on September 8, in the week before the world club championship starts. The latter competition will involve the four leading European and Australasian teams.

Lindsay said: "The advent of the Stones Super League brings about a bright new future. We now have a mag-nificent chance to put the game where it belongs - on a world stage." Brisbane Broncos' ANZ Sta-

dium has emerged as the likely venue for the dub championship final on Seper za. Inere take the event to Hong Kong Tokyo and San Francisco. Lindsay also predicts expansion, with participants from Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa and sides from New Zealand other than Auckland Warriors, the country's solitary Super League side.

Meanwhile, Bradford Bulls are close to agreeing terms with James Lowes, the Leeds hooker, one of the team's most consistent performers, even though he has been offered a new three-year deal.

SPORTS LETTERS

Educational changes have undermined English cricket

From Mr Bryan Burdett Sir, I regret Mr Subba Row (Sports Letters, January 27) can only look forward to a further decline in English

cricket in the coming decades. Structural changes in the hierarchy cannot undo the damage done in the Sixties when the new comprehensive education coincided with a change in teachers' attitudes towards an academic pursuits and their own working hours.

Almost overnight, state schools ceased offering cricket coaching and many other after-hours facilities and the development of potentially fine cricketers was limited to the independent schools and the few remaining grammar schools. Within a few years, it was obvious what was going to happen, and my cricket the lost schools' coaching and facilities — and still does.

But the increasing academic burden on the children, problems of transporting them to and from the cricket club and the shifting priorities of the adults involved have ensured that their efforts could never be enough and the flow of fine cricketers has dwindled to a fraction of what it was.

The counties began paper-ing over the cracks by importing overseas players and the shift to limited-overs cricker has further constrained the development of Test-match skills. Socialist education policy may largely eliminate schools cricket coaching in the next decade, and our national game will be consigned to

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BRYAN BURDETT, York House, 39 The Avenue,

Fareham, Hampshire. From Mr John W. Devall Sir, There is another principal reason for the poor performance of England's international cricketers: the climate. English conditions are highly conducive to soft pitch-

es, which usually assist bowlers far more than batsmen. This results in county bowlers getting their wickets too easily, ie, without being forced to learn to control line and length consistently and having to think deeply about how to remove a good batsman. Thus, when bowlers who

appear to be good in English county conditions go abroad on international duty (or face good batsmen on true pitches in a good English summer) they find themsleves outclassed by the West Indians. Australians, Pakistanis, Indians and others who have learnt their trade on hard pitches for example, their slow bowlers really can spin the ball besides controlling line and length.
English batsmen often have

to bat under conditions where the pitch as much as the bowler is responsible for the ball behaving unpredictably. and where trying to play good shots is difficult except on fast, true pitches like those at the Oval. Our batsmen thus have less opportunity to bat and to learn to play against the high-est quality bowlers on good pitches, which means they find shot-making and runscoring too difficult against international opposition. The solution is, in part,to

chub, along with many others.

made a major effort to replace the lost schools coaching and yours faithfully,

being part of our history but encourage groundsmen to try to produce good, hard batting pitches and to encourage many more of our better county players to go overseas in the winter to gain experi-ence just as the best overseas players have come here to learn bow to combat our

conditions (and our bowlers!).

Additionally, if the bowlers become so much better, the batsmen would automatically have to improve in order to excel even in county conditions on good pitches.

J. W. DEVALL 36 Woolston Drive, Hough, Cheshire. From Mr Philip Nind

Sir, To carry Raman Subba Row's thesis a step further, there are two dominating factors affecting the future of English cricket: 1. The fact that, sadly, money

dominates any future direction and planning. 2. The need to overcome the inordinately parochial attitude of the majority of the games' organisers and admin-

istrators.

Only revolution rather than evolution will bring about a structure likely in the immediate future to raise standards of recruitment and training. To put in place the organisation implied by Mr Subba Row will need massive funds, far larger than a single sponsor can be expected to provide. Yours sincerely.
PHILIP F. NIND.

10 Albury Park, Albury, Guildford, Surrey.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They must include a daytime telephone number.

Restoring spirit of rugby

From Mr N. P. Bradshaw

Sir, A recurrent problem in modern rugby union is the tendency of the defending side to concede a penalty whenever a try is threatened. This practice leads to a scrappy game and one in which kicked penalties predominate over

Attempts to correct the baiance of the game by altering the scoring have not been particularly successful, so I uggest another approach.

The only benefit a side obtains when conceding a penalty is that of ending the opposition's attack. It is this which makes such tactics frustrating for players and specia-

My suggestion is that if a penalty is kicked at goal the restart should not take the form of a kick-off, but rather a scrum to the kicking team at the place from which the

penalty was taken. There would be many benefits from such a rule change.

First, defending teams would become much less like-ly to deliberately concede kickable penalties since the risk of conceding points would not be offset by territorial gain. Second, it would be possible

to reduce the points value of a penalty kick since the kicking side is guaranteed possession This would make the result of the match less dominated by penalty kicking.

The final benefit would be to restore some of the spirit of rugby by making try-scoring and solid, legitimate defence the most profitable as well as the most exciting part of the Yours faithfully

N. BRADSHAW, 80 Elgin Avenue,

Thing of the past. From Mr M. D. Varcoe-Cocks

Sir, The return of Monica Seles is to be welcomed: her presence is vital to raise the low interest in and standard of women's tennis.

So far as her mental state is concerned, I wonder how much quicker she might have been able to recover and return to the game and normal life if she had not had so many sessions with a sports therapist/counsellor.

It is hard not to conclude that such extended counselling - which appears to be continuing - has helped to keep the trauma foremost in Seles's mind, as her distress at 5 Brackenbury Road, W6.

entransamentalisma entransamente de la comparta de

her post-match press conference in Melbourne showed (report, January 29). Most people who have been mugged manage m go out again; nearly everyone who falls off a bicycle gets back on.

I do not believe that Seles has a chance of coming to terms with the attack on her so long as she herself, her friends, family and advisers (and the "unchivalrous" questioners to whom your report referred) refuse to treat the incident as something in the past, awful at the time and in its immediate aftermath, but clearly -- nearly three years on - a thing of the past.

Yours faithfully, M. D. VARCOE-COCKS,

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Andrew Longmore on a team united in grief as they prepare

for the world championships

ust ten days after shoul-Kirsteen McGibbon, their team-mate, into the chapel at Linn crematorium in Glasgow, the Great Britain women's Alpine skiing team has returned to the mountains that claimed their closest friend. High above the Austrian resort of Seefeld here, the five remaining women have been hurling themselves down the slopes of the Tyrol, outwardly aiming for a place in the team for the world championships in Spain in a fortnight, in-

wardly searching for reconciliation 'All I with a sport that has brought them could see immeasurable enjoyment and, since were the the death of "Kim" McGibbon on the images Alpenmarkt downof Kim' course on Tuesday, January

l6, ultimate pain. Some have mastered the process of understanding better than others. Lesley McKenna. who shared a childhood and a love of the mystical with McGibbon, has used her belief in cosmic paths, fairy-tales and spiritual fulfilment to gain strength from the tragedy. In moments of despair, she turns to a poem that McGibbon wrote the night before she It was called the Paths of

Life. The opening verse reads: Always head towards the distant hills Our future lies silhouetted on the horizon. This inner destination

Must never be lost from sight. "Her sister read it out at the funeral service and it gave me such a feeling of happiness,"

McKenna said, "It's a descrip tion of a journey and it has a lot of hidden meanings, which I think I understand. I feel Kim was on a journey and it was her time to leave the path and go wherever she's gone. Now, I feel it is time I got on and started my journey and I feel her strength." Only the message inside the Christmas card from McGibbon, opened when McKenna returned home for the funeral, threw her off balance. It read: "Flip beyond the dimensions in '96."

Shona Robertson, her wideopen young face still full of hurt, sees only the empty seat in the team van, the one be-hind the driver where McGibbon used to sit and which nobody else will use, and feels an irrational sense

of guilt that McGibbon died on her skis, a spare pair handed on. There are other coincidences that trouble her.

On the day before McGibbon's accident, Robertson had been privately mourning the first anniversary of the death of another friend, a victim of meningitis. Then, there was the unnecessarily ebullient hugs that McGibbon had given the rest of the team when she had left for training on the Alpenmarki, strange

"It wasn't as if we weren't going to see her again for months, it was only a couple of days . . , "Robertson same.
The Alpenmarkt itself,

much loathed by Robertson, who fractured her back on the course three years before and who knew intimately the con-



مكذا من الاصل

McKenna, who turns, in moments of despair, to a poem written by McGibbon, in action on the slopes



Carrick-Anderson: gifted



McGibbon: tragic accident



tours of the corner that caused McGibbon's fall because she cheapest meal in town. had once crashed there herself. The team drove past the course in silence on the way from Salzburg to Seefeld last week, another little milestone on the road to acceptance.

It is impossible to be in the company of this team without being touched by the nobility and sheer innocence of their courage. Whatever the whizkid image portrayed by the multicoloured figures on Ski Sunday, reality for the alsorans is six-to-a-room pensions and endless trawls for the

This week, spent in the lap of luxury at the £130-a-night Vital Hotel Royal, is an exception, provided courtesy of a sponsorship deal with Emma Carrick-Anderson, the team's gifted stalom specialist. Most will be in hock to their passion by summertime, a reflection of how weighted are the odds against them. "Why," they ask silently, "should anyone want to pick on us again?"

The closeness of the group has heightened the cruelry of the blow just as it has lent strength to the convalescence. At 22. Marjory Adam, from Falkirk, is the oldest; at 17, Tessa Pirie, like Robertson from Aberdeen, is the

During a succession of halcyon winters, when the snow was lush and the club system in Scotland thriving, McGib-bon, McKenna and Carrick-Anderson frolicked together on the nursery slopes at Avlemore. They have been inseparable since childhood and all admit that the circle has been drawn tighter by

just naturally," Carrick-An-derson said. "I had a dream about the accident, so we talked about that and, in the first few nights back here, no one could sleep; so we talked. It's easier now. I just feel that Kim's not here now, but she'll be back soon."

For Robertson, the first race back, last weekend, was the hardest moment. "I was at the start and trying to visualise the course in my mind, but all I could see was images of Kim," she said.

None have seriously considered giving up the sport, partly because they knew that McGlbbon would not want it that way, partly because it is

steps back were taken on a weekend at Aviemore, canoeing and rock climbing. The unspoken. Slowly, the banter has resumed, the self-consciousness been eased; the

sights reset. Training sessions this week have, by common consent, been as hard and rewarding as any this season. We found a water bottle in the van the other day," Clare Bailey, one of the team coaches, said. "It turned out to be Kim's, but at least they were talking about it. They've helped each other out and we've tried to keep them busy.

better these last couple of

McGibbon's death has also prompted an important reshuffling of priorities. "Kim was just 20," Carrick-Anderson said. "It makes you realise that every day is important even if it's a bad day. The last couple of races I've felt more relaxed because I know there's a lot worse things can happen than losing a race."

Tomorrow, the team moves to Italy before the final preparations for Spain. Wherever they go, McGibbon's spirit will not be far away. Whatever the result, the overpowering feeling is that the greater victory has already been won their lives. Their first tentative in the Tyrol this past week.

Conditions Runs to

0 110 hard varied closed fair -2 7/1 (Very windy with windblown snow; snow forecast)

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SWITZERLA								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain, L - lower stopes; U - upper, art - artificial,

(b) A resin or resinous wood, from the Portuguese palo de aquita. Cf. eagle-wood and agallock. "The Siam Coast produces much Agila and DOUROUCOULI

(c) Any of several South and Central American monkeys of the genus Aorus, characterised by large, staring eyes, long, non-prehensile tails, and nocturnal habits: the night-monkey or owi-monkey. A South American Indian name. "Furnicky small mammals, such as marmosets and douroucoulis." CARBONADO

(c) A dark, opaque variety of diamond, found near Bahia in Brazil, used in rock-drilling and stone-polishing. The Portuguese name. "A considerable quantity of a black substance was found, of specific gravity like the Diamond, but lamellar. It was termed Carbonado by the discoverers from its charcoal like appearance."

DUPLEX QUERELA (c) Legal Lain for literally "a twofold complaint". "When the bishop doth refuse, or unduly delay to admit and institute a clerk to the church to which he is presented, the clerk may have his remedy against the bishop in the ecclesiastical court, complaining to the judge of appeals thereof, the judge is wont to write to the bishop in the form of law, and this writing they call a duplex querela. This duplex querela is to contain a monition to the bishop."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE 1, . . . Rel+; 2, Kh2 Rxg2+1; 3, Rxg2 Nf3 mate.

Playing it by the book

Speaking Volumes. Radio 2, 7.00pm.

This is a books quiz that isn't - or at least, that isn't entirely. True, there are questions and answers about books and their writers, but mainly the four panellists are invited by Sarah Kennedy, the chairwoman, to contribute their thoughts about professional chairwoman, to contribute their thoughts about professional permanship in general. Thomas Keneally, for instance, expands on literary awards and on whether he was happy about the film of his novel Schindler's Ark. Andrew Morton reveals that, when writing, it is Dundee cake and fig rolls that keep him going. Meanwhile, back in the quiz, the questions swing between the easy (what was the speckled band in the Sheriock Holmes story?) no the positively tricky (how did P.G. Wodehouse describe the discipline of writing?).

Journeys Into Space: Beam Me Up Scotty. Radio 4 FM, 10.00am. For the sake of convenience as much as to ensure accuracy. John Peel

For the sake of convenience as much as to ensure accuracy, John Ped sub-divides his anatomy of space age culture into three decades: the 1930s, 1950s, and 1960s — the periods when popular culture and pseudo-science became intertwined. Space Age 1 was the decade of Buck (originally Anthony) Rogers and the distintegrator guns that went "Zappi". Space Age 2 was the rock n' roll decade when extraterrestrials landed to teach Earthlings how to do the Twist, and housewives were cool operatives pushing buttons on a culturary console. Space Age 3 brought Doctor Who, Lost in Space, rocketshaped loilies and Moon Girls in silver trousers.

Peter Davalie.

FM Stereo. 4.00mm Cive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa TAnson, and at 12.30-12.45pmi Newboart and at 1,15 The Net 2.00 Netly Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, and 6.15 The Net 7.00 Essenbel Selection 10.00 John Peel 1.00mm Radio 1 Rep Should 4.04 Sml Lim Essenbel 1 Rep

Show 4.00-6.00 Lynn Parsons

FM. Stereo. 8.00mm Sarah Kannedy 7.30 Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Debbie Thrower 3.30 Ed Stewert 5.05 John Durn 7.30 Speaking Volumes. See Choice 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night 8.45 Whistly Galoret (7/8) 9.00 Listen to the Sand. Deelord Colliery Band under Major Peter Paries 10.00 Alan Titchmarsh: Radio 2 Arts Programme, 12.05mm Digby Feir-weather 1.00 Cherles Nove

S.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breeldest Programme, incl 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Megazine, with Diana Mactill, incl Video Review, Euronews and et 11.30 Chain Reaction 12.00 Middey with Mair, Incl et 12.34 pm. Moneycheck; and et 1.15 Euterteimment News 4.00 John Invertalle Nationwick, incl at 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Invertalle Nationwick, incl at 6.45 Entertainment News 2.05 Parkinson on Sport 8.35 Ott Pists 9.05 American Gratiti 9.35 Stoip Press 10.05 Entertainment, Superhighway 11.00 Night Edra, incl at 11.15 The Finencial World Tonight 11.35 After Hours 2,00am Up All Night

TALK RADIO 6.00am Sendy War 7.00 Smon Bates 19.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raebum 4.00 Scott Chistolm 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00mm Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Short Story — Two Friends 7.30 Surviving the 20th Cashury 8.00 News 8.10 Faith 8.15 Music Review 6.00 News in German 9.15 Faith 9.45 Sports 10.00 Newsday 6.10 News 10.30 BEC English 10.45 Short Story — Two Friends 11.00 Newsday 6.10 Newsday 11.30 Meridian 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business 12.15 British Today 12.30 Science in Action 1.00 Newshour 2.09 News 2.05 Cutiook 2.30 Multimote Alternative 3.00 News in German 3/1 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Susiness Report 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsday 8.30 News 7.01 Cutiook 7.25 Worlds of Felich 7.30 Multimatic Alternative 8.00 Newshour 2.00 News 10.30 The World Today 9.30 Repole and Politics 10.00 Newsday 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 News 11.10 Spottight 11.15 Surviving the 20th Century 11.45 The Farming World Middight Newsday 12.30mm From the Weeldies 12.45 Stitaio Today 1.00 News 2.15 Sport 3.30 Vintage Chart Show 4.00 Newsday 4.30 Jezz 4.45 Soven Days 1.00 Newsday 4.30 Jez

CLASSIC FM

4.00mm Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Balley 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susaman Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamis Crick 6.00 Newsmight 6.30 Scrata 7.00 Classic Verdict 8.00 Concert 10:00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Robert Booth

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00mm Russ 'n' Joho 9.00 Richard Sidnner 12.00 Greham Dene 4.00mm Nicky Home 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Formet 2.00mm Howard Pearco

6.00am On Air, including Sidellus (Lemminkainen's Return); Vaughen Williams (Flos Campi); Vivald (Concerto in G minor, Flv310); Part (Festina lente); 8.05 Moszkowski (Tarantella); Faydax (Maris plene virtute) 9.00 Morning Collection with Paul Gambacchi, including

Boccherini (La ritirata di Madrid, Guitar Quintel in C: Manno, Gutter Curriet in C: Pepe Romerd, guiter, Academy of St Martin Chamber Ensemble); Mozart (Violin Concerto No 5 In A: Gidon Krener, violin, Vienna PO, under Nikolaus Hamonicount); Well (Suite, The Threemenory Chart

The Threepenry Opera: London Sinformetta under David Athertor)

10.00 Musical Encounters.
Including Busoni (Cornedy
Overture); Farz (In melnen
Garten; Die Lotosblume); 10.13 Artist of the Week

Philip Fowks, plano, Schubert (Sonate in A. D664); 10.37 (Sonata in A, D664); 10.37
Verdi (Te Deurn, Qualtro pezzi
sacri); Casalia (Scarlattiana);
Remsey (When David Heard);
Tchalkovsky (Fate); Joseph
Marx (Selige Nacht); Johann
Strauss, son, an Schutz-Evter
(Concert Arabesque on
Thamea from The Blue
Daruthel Danube)

Danufe)
12.00 Composer of the Week.
Janacek (Violin Concerto,
Pligrimage of the Sout; From
the House of the Dead; String Quartet No 2, indimitate Letter)

1.00pm Chamber Music from Manchester, live from the Concert Hell, New Broadcasting House. Mayumi Seiler, violin, Caroline Palmer,

piano, perform Prokofiev (Five Metodies, Op 35a); Schubert (Fantasia in C, D934) 2.00 Schools; Let's Make a Story 2.15 Music Box 2.30 Dance Workshop 2.50 Poetry Comer 3.00 Mining the Archive. Susan Shape introdues recordings made by the master planist Shaira Cherlassky 4.20 By the Waters of Babylon.

The Rev Alan Walter visits the Ukrainian Greek Catholic community just of or Oxford Street in London (5/9)

4.30 Brazeli: The Roots of Semba Pulinho da Vieta looks back at . the development of samba in . Pilo at the beginning of the 5.00 The Music Machine in New

5.00 The Music Machine in New Orleans. With Serah Walker 5.15 in Tune with Jeremy Nicholes 7.30 Orchestra de Parts under Semyon Bychkov, with Maxim Vergerov, violin, live from the Berbican Hall, London. Gilbert Army (Trois scenes pour orchestre); Mendelssohn (Violin Concesto in Embror); 8 90 Twanzieth-Century (Voin Concerto in E minor);
8.20 Twentieth-Century
Mastarworks, Steve Maritand
talks about Stravinsky's Rife
of Spring (r); 8.40 Stravinsky
(The Rite of Spring)
9.30 Cultural Baggage: Anorak
9.50 Hear and Now, Sarah Walker

introduces a concert marking the 50th birthday of the composer and planist Michael Finnissy, and friends and coffeegues of British planist John Titbury, talk of his work as he reaches his 60th historia.

12.00-1.00em Seld, Smoke, Sathe. Fifth in a str-per series on the history of caberet

5.55am Stipping Forecast (LW only) 6.00 News Briefing, incl weather 8.10 Faming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 8.30 Today, incl 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 8.55, 7.55 Weether 7.25, 8.25 Soot 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 Yesterday in Parliament 8.58 Weether 9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island Discs with Julian Barries (f) 9.45 Feedback, presented by Chris Durkley 18.00-10.30 News; Journeys Into Space: Beam Me Up Scotty (FM only). See Choice 10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only) 10.35 Weether 18.00 Worship (LW only) 10.35 Worshin's Hour, introduced from Manchester by Sheila McClennon. Serial: Mother of Pearl, by Mary Montary (12/12) 11.30 The Natural History Programme with Joanna Pinnock. 5.00 PM 5.60 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather 6.00 Sbt O'Cipck News 6.30 Going Places 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 Pick of the Week, with Christopher Sede 8.05 Any Questions? Jonather Dimbleby chairs a topical discussion in Strewsbury. Dimbleby chains a topical chacussion in Strewsbury. Stropshire. On the panel are Victoria Glendincing. biographer and novelist. Sir Bernard Ingham, journellet and broadcaster, Francis Maude, former Financial Socretary to the Treasury, and Labour MP Dennis Skinner 8.50 Law in Action, with Marcel Berlins 9.15 Letter from America by. 9.15 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke 9.30 Kaleldoscope Feathire. A calcibration of Samuel Taylor Coloridge's poem The Rime of the Ancient Manner. With readings from the posm by Raigh Richerdson and Richard Burton (f) 9.59 Weather 11.30 The Natural History Programme with Joanna Pirnock 12.00 News; You and Yours 12.25pm The Food Programme, prateried by Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarka 1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55 Shipper Frances Weather 10.00 The World Torright, with 2.00 News Classic Serial: Sunset Song, by Lewis Grassic Globon, dramatised by Brian McCabe, With Viold Masson, (2/2) /rl

10.00 The World Luting
Robin Luting
10.46 Book at Bedtinge: Love in
the Time of Cholera, by
Gabriel Garcie Minguez

by brain McLape, with viole Massori, (2/2) (r)
3.00 News; The Atturnoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope.
Tim Marlow visits a Mapol Hambling exhibition as she makes her lirst bronze

Gabriel Garcia Marquez
(15/15)
11.00 Week Ending. News saire
with Sally Grace. Toby
Longworth, Jon Glover and
Peter Siverice!
11.25 Fourth Column
11.45 Today in Parliament
12.00 Meres, inc 12.27em Weather
12.30 The Late Book: The
Drowned World, Nicholas
Farrell reads J.G. Ballard's
adverture (10/10)

atherture (10/10) 12.48 Shipping Forecasi 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUEDE: RADIO 1. FM 97.888.8. RADIO 2. FM 865-80.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-82.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198. MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-555am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197. 1215. TALK RADIO UK. MW 1053, 1089 Television and radio listings complied by Peter Dear, Gillian Maxey, Rosemany Smith and Susan Thomson

4.45 Short Story: Web Central by Fay Weldon. Read by Oliver Ford Davies



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SIR JOHN CARMICHAEL

Sir John Carmichael, KBE, civil servant, busicessman and golfer. died on January 6 aged 85. He was born on April 22, 1910.

JOHN CARMICHAEL returned to his native Scotland from Sudan in the late 1950s. The experience he had gained in Africa as a civil servant and financial and economic adviser to the first postindependence Sudanese Government made him a welcome addition to the boardrooms of several top British companies. Besides his time at Fisons - where he was chief executive, 1962-66 - he served the fishing, gas, jine and chemical industries.

Carmichael was also a first-class golfer, who played off a single-figure handicap. He could often be seen striding around the Old Course at St Andrews, and won the Royal and Ancient's Jubilee Vase there in 1964. He was captain of the Royal and

John Carmichael was born in St Andrews and educated there at Madras College. He graduated from St Andrews University with first class honours in mathematics and physics. He was given his rugby Blue, and had a trial for the Scorish team. Although he never won a cap, he was a reserve on 13 occasions.

After a year on a Commonwealth Fellowship ar the University of Michigan, he returned to Britain and joined Guardian Assurance. Then in 1936 he decided on a complete change of écvice, and went out to Sudan, where his duries included a spell as Permanent Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Finance, In that post Carmichael was given a free rein to develop his business skills. He used to joke that, on one occasion during the Second World War, he was involved in selling the entire conon crop.

Sudan was one of the few African countries to retain the service of some British civil servants after independence. Carmichael stayed on after 1956, and Ismail al-Azhari, the first Prime Minister, later fondly described him as "the white man in our woodpile". But in 1959 Carmichael returned to Scotland and bought a house at Balmullo, just outside St Andrews. There he cultivated a hand-some garden, full of all the known

species of heather in Scotland. He was appointed to the UK delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations and the following year, 1960, joined Fisons as a non-executive director, initially as chairman of its pestcontrol subsidiary in Sudan.

Twu years later he was made chief executive of Fisons, succeeding Avison Wormald, Carmichael brought in George Burton as his deputy chief executive, and, while Burton concentrated on overseas trade, Carmichael turned his mind to the home market.

Wormald had already begun the process of diversification of Fisons interests, and Carmichael continued the process. For the past century, the Fisons market had been largely UKbased. Carmichael made it more of an international player, and he spent a good deal of time abroad, travelling with Burton to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bungladesh, Kenya and Ugan-da. By-products to the Fisons fertiliser range were introduced, and included weedkillers, shampoos and specialised food products. While other British companies struggled through a lean period. Fisons remained in healthy shape throughout the mid-toos. After

George Burton had succeeded as chief

executive in 1966. Carmichael became

deputy chairman for six years, and

then reverted to his old status on the

board as non-executive director until

Fisons was one in a growing number of board appointments. By the late 1900s, Carmichael had been brought onto the board of Jute Industries trenamed Sidlaw Industries in 1969). and groomed by Sir William Walker. the outgoing chairman, as heir apparent. He was appointed chairman in 1970 and remained in the post for the next decade.

Carmichael's main achievement at Sidlaw was to transform it from an oldfashioned textile business, based in

Dundee, to a major provider nf services to the nascent oil industry in Scotland. When he arrived, jute, the product on which the business's fornunes were founded, was increasingly being provided not by Dundee companies but by those in Bangladesh and Calcutta. Diversification was the only option if the company was not to sink with the rest of the industry.

In 1972 Carmichael organised the lease (subsequently the purchase) of reclaimed land within the port area of Peterhead, north of Aberdeen. The company began to organise the logis-nes of the management of these ports, and so got involved, at just the right moment, in North Sea oil. The period from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s was one of substantial growth for Sidlaw, much of it attributable to Carmichael's timely initiative.

He was also chairman of the Herring Advisory Board, 1960-63, and deputy chairman of the Independent Television Authority, 1960-63. By the mid-t970s he had reduced his commitments in the South and was concen-traing his energies in Scotland. He served on the boards of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Abbey National, and the Scottish Development Advisory Board. He was appointed KBE in 1955.

During his period as the Rector's assessor at St Andrews University, 1965-68, he worked with such diverse figures as C. P. Snow, Sir Learie Constantine and Lord Boothby.

Carmichael was a softly-spoken

man, with a disarming, lopsided smile. He enjoyed family life, and every year took his family on holiday, sometimes less successfully than others. One year, he rented a caravan with which to tour Scotland. He reached as far as Speyside not much north of Andrews, before discovering that he had liole idea how to reverse the cumbersome vehicle, let alone park it. Instead, he booked the entire family into the local hotel for the entire holiday.

Those who knew him well suspected that he may never have had any real intention of venturing further north than Speyside. With many good golf courses at hand, there seemed little reason to.

He is survived by his wife Cecilia, whom he married in 1940, and by one son and three daughters.

JOHN EDLIN

John Edlin, journalist, died in Johannesburg after a stroke on January 29 aged 50. He was born in Invercargill, New Zcaland, on August 21, 1945.

TO THE despair of his editors - and to the delight of his readers - John Edlin decided early on in his 33-year-long career as a journalist in Africa that real stories could be gathered just as easily in bars and shebeens as by more orthodox means. But, despite achieving cult status as a heroic drinker and featuring as a thinly disguised hell-raising character in a number of excellent novels set in Africa, John Edlin always remained a fine reporter. From the Congolese uprising in 1966, where he tracked down the French mercenary leader Bob Denard and other notorious soldiers of fortune, Edlin chronicled with distincrion the colonial and civil wars in Angola and Mozambique, the Rhodesian bush war and the collapse of old Cold War

For more than three deades, he traversed independent Africa making friends and enemies of some of the most influential politicians; he was expelled from seven countries and jailed in at least two.

rivalries.

He witnessed mass starvation in Ethiopia in 1985 and once described how he had watched doctors marking the foreheads of children who could be saved. He asked Mother Teresa what could be done to help the others. "What are you going to do?" she said. Edlin considered the question over a beer or two, and in six months had provided start-up funds for an orphanage for 600 children outside Addis

Divorced but childless, he rebased himself in Ghana and He is survived by had earlier funded the educatravelled widely throughout er and two brothers. Divorced but childless, he

Ababa.



tion of Moroccan orphans after a reporting assignment on the Saharan war and supported a children's home in Zimbabwe. His open-handgenerosity extended to any his colleagues who had fallen on hard times and to young reporters struggling to make their way. In Zimbabwe he was known as Chibbovi, or one of the boys" in the Shona language of the black journalists to whom he was mentor

and friend. John Edlin came to Southern Rhodesia from New Zealand in 1963 and went to work for a number of Rhodesian newspapers before leaving for Zambia and the Congo, Hired by the South African-owned Argus Africa News Service, he

JAMES HOLLAND

West Africa, breaking many trips to retrace the steps of Graham Greene's Journey

without Maps.
Edlin provided the novelist David Pownall with the model for a raucous young reporter from New Zealand, John Pyper, in his two novels set in Zambia, The Raining Tree War and African Horse.

Returning to southern Africa from Ghana in 1972, he worked for British newspapers and Reuters before becoming a full-time Associated Press correspondent in Rhodesia in 1976. At the time of his stroke on the dance floor of a nightelub in Dakar, Edlin had completed a year-long assignment teaching African journalists in Senegal.

He is survived by his moth-

BRIGADIER BILL VICKERS

Brigadier Bill Vickers. DSO, OBE. died on Jaouary 28 aged 82. He was born on January 19. 1914.

THE challenge of commanding an infantry battalion other than one of one's own regi-ment is always formidable. The task faced by Bill Vickers, a tall, raw-boned man of rather gaunt aspect, was especially so. After 22 years of service exclusively with British troops, he was appointed to command 2nd Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), whose stocky, tough but unfailingly humorous soldiers stood only as high as his shoulder. This was in Hong Kong in January 1956 but the battalion was due to move to Malaya, where the eight-yearold communist insurrection still smouldered on.

Vickers commanded 2nd/2nd "Goorkhas", as they were invariably known, during two years of intensive operations against the residual hardcore of the communist terrorists, initially in Negeri Sembilan state in the south-

west of the Malay peninsula. By that stage of the campaign. the tide had turned against the insurrection, thanks to the farsighted policies of the successive Directors of Operations. Generals Sir Harold Briggs and Sir Gerald

During the second half of 1956, Vickers concentrated on the Kuala Pilah district, where operations by "A" company of the battalion, commanded by Major Grahame Vivian, acting on Special Branch information and intelligence from surrendered terrorists, killed or captured several of the key communist leaders in the The following year saw

2nd/2nd Goorkhas operating in the neighbouring state of Johore, where a high propor-tion of the predominantly Chinese population persisted in their support of the terrorists still in the jungle. Accompanied by a Special Branch officer and only a small escort. Vickers trekked into the interior on four occasions to negotiate personally the surrender of terrorists. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1957 and the



citation for his award of the DSO in 1958 read: "Lieutenant-Colonel Vickers has added to the renown and fighting traditions of his regiment and proved himself to be a fearless. skilled and determined leader. Inspired by his leadership, his men achieved many successes in jungle operations against a wary, treacherous and dangerous enemy.

Arthur William Neville Langston Vickers was born in London, the son of William C. L. Vickers, an electrical en-

gineer. He was educated at Clifton, which he represented at cricket, rugby, fives and boxing, and entered die Royal Military College Sandhurst via a cadet scholarship in 1932. He was commissioned into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1934.

After prewar service in In-dia and Burma with the 2nd KOYLL Vickers was recalled to accompany the 1st Battalion to France in 1939. Later. as part of the 15th Infantry Brigade, the same battalion took part in the ill-fated British intervention in Norway. Virtually without air support, the brigade was landed near the Aandalsnes fiord on April 18. 1940, only to be withdrawn 12 days later in the face of the German advance northwestwards up the Gudbrand Valley from Oslo, strongly supported by the Luftwaffe.

After staff college in 1941 and appointments in England. he returned to regimental service as second-in-command of 4th Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry in time for the Normandy invasion. He was wounded and evacuated, only to return as soon as he had

recovered, this time in com-mand of the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment in the 43rd Wessex Division which saw stiff fighting in Holland and Germany in the winter of 1944-45.

He was appointed OBE in 1945 in recognition of his war service and posted to the Staff College, Camberley, as an instructor in 1948. Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, he was appointed AA&QMG of the 1st Commonwealth Division. The years 1051-52 were the grimmest of this gruelling war, during which Vickers was mentioned in dispatches and awarded the United States Bronze Star. A brief period with 2nd KOYLI was followed by brevet promotion to lieutenant-colonel, a period on the Allied Staff in Berlin and then command of 2nd/2nd Gurkha

Following his successful period in command, he was promoted colonel and served on the Nato staff of Allied Forces Central Europe and as an instructor at the RAF Staff College, before being appointed Inspector of Intelligence and Commundant of the Joint Services Intelligence Centre in the rank of brigadier. He retired from the Army in 1967 but remained in government service, engaged in security work, until 1970.

For eight years he served a general secretary of the Soil Association, working with E. F. Schmacher and Lady Eve Balfour. For many years during his retirement he was an active member of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association. but was able to find time to play single-figure handicap golf and local cricket in and around Harlesiun in Norfolk. where he had made his home He is survived by his wife loan, whom he married in 1939, and by their two sons

and two daughters.

one of the designers of the 1951 Festival of Britain, died on January 7 aged 90. He was born in Gillingham, Kent, on September 19, 1905. HIS students will remember

James Holland, OBR.

James Holland as a fine teacher, his colleagues as a gifted painter, illustrator and designer, his family and friends as a man of conscience - but history will remember him for his major contribution to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Born in Kent, James Sylvester Holland was the son of a

naval blacksmith and never lost his love of the sea. After going to school at the Mathematical School, Rochester, and studying painting at the Rochester School of Art, where he returned later as a governor, he won a rare painting scholarship to the Royal College of Art in 1924. His tutor was Paul Nash and contemporaries there included Henry Moore, with whom Holland worked at one time, and the Canadian painter James Boswell. He and Boswell became lifelong friends, and together they made a number of trips to France, where Holland heldhis first exhibition before he

graduated. Leaving the Royal College of Art, Holland was immediately offered an art directorship with Foote Cone & Belding. working on a number of top advertising accounts such as Shell. Imperial Airways and the Empire Marketing Board. He went on to establish himsell as a freelance artist and was much in demand.

With war on the horizon. Holland, together with Boswell and another artist James Fitton, set up the influential Artisis International Association, a pacifist organisation of artists. During the war Holland worked at the Ministry of Information, mainly on exhibition design, and it was here that he acquired the skills that were to equip him for his



job in the design group of the 1951 Festival of Britain. He joined the team in 1948 at a time of rationing and acute shortage of materials.

The Ministry of Works had looked at the South Bank site and declared it an impossible task. The design team not only took on the task but decided that each should design a section of the site. With his maritime background it was natural that Holland should choose "Sea and Ships". To his further delight, the First Lord of the Admiralty offered him the aircraft carrier Campanio to tour Britain as a floating exhibition hall of which Holland was the designer in charge. The Festival design team met formally at least twice a week and then afterwards for informal suppers. Each member of the group had specific responsibilities but all the major decisions

were the group's joint effort. That the ambinous exhibilion opened on time, was so well attended and was so

touch fun was in no small part due to the experience and skill of the design team, who re-mained as close friends at the completion of the job as when they began. When the exhibition closed Holland was ap-

pointed OBE. . . He was president of the Chartered Society of Designers, 1960-61, and shortly afterwards he was appointed group art director at Erwin Wasey Advertising. In 1963 he accepted the offer to return to teaching as head of graphic design at Birmingham Polytechnic. In 1971, on his retirement from Birmingham, Holland became education officer at the Chartered Society of Designers and he used his experience to help design courses to become more professional. During this period he wrote Minerva at Fifty, a history of the society.

Holland is survived by his second wife Jacqueline two daughters from his first marriage and a son and a daughter from his second.

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LAWRENCE AND HIS LEGEND

RICHARD ALDINGTON: Lawrence of Arabia. A Biographical Enquiry. 415pp. Collus. 25s. The rule of the French edition of Mr Addington's brook — Lawrence PImposteur — more frankly acknowledges in character than the sub-life of the English a "bugraphical enquiry". He has, scarciaed the already published literature by and

about Lawrence for every scrap of material that can be turned to his victim's discredit. Lawrence is vulnerable to this kind of attack. A great papular beyond was built up for him in the early 193%, and inflated with anecdotes many of which to key seem not only false but foolish. Mr Ahlmghm adduces evidence to show that Lawrence, while publicly deprecating the growth of the legend, privately consisted at it, in truth, vanity, of the kind that "backed into the limelight", was Lawrence's besetting weakness, some of his warmest admirers have acknowledged it; he himself was corrections of it, castigated himself for it and could not escape from it. But no one who piled up take of languagic adventure, and moreoid the look of slight disdain that came into his eyes if the listener seemed to be accepting the un-probabilities too literally, will rurn to the Seven Pillars of Wisdom for a precise record of the

ourse of the desert campaign, It does not follow, however, that the military value of the Arab revolt was insignificant and the

ON THIS DAY

February 2, 1955. **建建筑**

T. E. Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, became a legend in his tifetime, but there were always thuse who regarded his accounts of his career with some scepticism. Among these was the poet and novelist Richard Aldington.

credit for such success as it achieved stolen by Lawrence from other men, which is Mr Aldington's thesis. We have the testimony of Colonel String, Staff Officer with the Arab forces, that: "Lawrence took the timelight from those of us professional soldiers who were fortunate enough to serve with him, but never once have I heard a whisper of jealousy. We sensed that we were serving with a man immeasurably our superior."

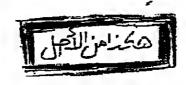
Mr Aldington opens with what he chooses to call "research", that Lawrence was born out of wedlock - a fact that any of Lawrence's friends, or Lawrence himself in his tifetime, would have given him for the asking.

Much play is made with the evidence that he was not offered the appointment of High

Commissioner to Egypt in 1925. Attention is thus diverted from the very strong evidence from depending upon Lawrence's word) that he was sounded about mixing the same office in 1922 by Mr Winston Chorchill, under whom he was then serving in the Colonial Office. Again, when Mr Aldington admits that "he was offered by a banker, and refused, a position in the City of London," is it not a little disingenuous not to mention that the banker was Montagu Norman, and the position that of Secretary of the Bank of and the position that of Secretary of the Bank of

But, as has been said, Lawrence's greatness is not to be assessed by details. To Mr Aldington it is a myth labricated by "the Lawrence Bureau". We have to consider who the Lawrence Bureau were. The Arab Revolt was, as Lawrence himself said only the sideshow of a sideshow. Yes, for its great importance to the larger campaign the winness is Allenby, the commander in chiefs for Lawrence's unique leadership and fitness for the frighest command, Wavell; for his capacity for the greatest civilian offices. Str. Winston Churchill: for his scholarship, Hogarth, Sir. Leonard Woolley, and Sir Ernest Barker, for his literary skill, Wells and Sir Ernest Barker, for his literary skill, Wells and Sir Winston Churchill again; for his paladin quality as an adversary, Clemenceau, it is permissible to prefer the judgment of the Lawrence Buresul to Mr Aldington's.

His worst enemy does not think Lawrence a dull writer. But he has managed to write an uncommonly dull book. have to consider who the Lawrence Bureau we



FRIDAY FEBRUARY 2 1996

Sri Lankan authorities stand firm

Australia may pull out of Colombo game

FIASCO threatened the cricket World Cup yesterday as Australia, the favourites, considered the drastic step of forfeiting their first group game to avoid visiting Colombo, the bomb-ravaged Sri Lankan capital. A decision will be taken early next week. unless the organising commit-tee acts first to alter the venue.

Graham Halbish, the chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board, confirmed yesterday that the possibility of forfeiture would be discussed at a scheduled board meeting next Monday and Tuesday. He added that more information from the Australian and Sri Lankan Governments was needed and repeated his earlier assurance that any player who feared for his safety could withdraw from the selected squad without penalties.

Thanks to the extraordinary format of the competition, which will probably entail only one Test-playing nation being eliminated after three weeks of group games, Australia are aware that they could sacrifice one game and still qualify for the quarter-finals with some comfort. If arry other teams followed suit, Sri Lanka's progress would be virtually guaranteed before they played a game.

The Australian players concerns, already aroused by unconnected death threats from fanatics in Pakistan and Sri Lanka, were inevitably heightened when a statement from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs warned against any non-essential travel to Sri Lanka. saying: The possibility of attacks against airports, hotels and tourist facilities cannot be

ruled out." lan Healy, the Australia vice-captain, said: "The bomb blast is no real surprise to me. It is why we were concerned in the first place." Michael Slater, the opening batsman, added his view that other teams may refuse to play in Srl Lanka. "I think that's the likely scenario," he said. "It's a bit scary, but we are going to be guided by the board on this one." Craig McDermott, who has recently received a death threat from Sri Lanka, said on Australian television: "Maybe it puts all games in Colombo in jeopardy, not just Austra-

Australia had already al-tered their itinerary to minimise time in Colombo. They have instead scheduled a three-day training camp in Brisbane, where the climate is similar, but it is intended that they should fly to Colombo directly after the opening ceremony in Calcutta. Alarmingly. their hotel is a single block away from the site of the bomb



Slater: concerned about a "scary" situation

This is just the latest setback to a competition plagued by political tension and administrative mismanagement, but it could be the most serious.

If Australia were to take the ultimate measure of withdrawing their team, which nobody one has yet ruled out. the credibility of this troubled event would be destroyed.

Although rugby teams from the New Zealand provinces of Wellington and Otago yesterday cancelled tours to Sri Lanka planned for later this month, the full sporting impact of the suicide bombing on Wednesday has yet to be felt. World Cup officials will come under increasing pressure to

venue, but their problem is finding suitable last-minute alternatives when many cities in Pakistan and India are also suffering intense unrest.

Amrit Mathur, a member of the organising committee, said yesterday: "If need be, we may have to shift the venues of the four matches allotted to Sri Lanka; but that will only be a last option and only if Sri Lanka themselves refuse to hold the matches."

This unlikely scenario be-came still more improbable with Zimbahwe's agreement to go ahead with their game in the city on February 21. Denis Streak, their team manager, sounded a defiant note when he said: "We don't see it as a major problem. You could get run over by a bus in the street. It's just one of those things. We've thought about it, but we come from a country which knows about war and we're not going to worry about a few

Tissa Gunaratne, a spokes-man for the Sri Lankan Cricket Board, said yesterday: "No country has contacted us over this bombing incident. We are going ahead with preparations. We have not even considered calling off the matches."

Streak, and the Sri Lankan cricket authorities, must prepare themselves for others to think differently on the matter. While the International Cricket Council remains largely powerless and wordless, and while facile guarantees of tight security abound, human nature dictates that sporting teams will think twice before entering what amounts to a war zone.

There can be no assurantces about safety in most parts of India and Pakistan, but Australia, at least, will be happier taking their chances there than in Sri Lanka. It is now time that the organisers of this besieged

Simon Barnes, page 16



Parke hopes to recover from his chemotherapy treatment in time for the British Open in April. Photograph: Shaun Botterill/Allsport

Brave Parke battling to beat illness

By COLIN MCOUILLAN

AT THE end of November, Simon Parke was on top of the world. He was the main attraction at a special press conference at Lambs Club in London. On one hand was England's first world team squash trophy: on the other. Caroline Varley, his new

girlfriend. Four weeks later, he was facing quite another examination, in the oncology depart-ment of the Nottingham City Hospital, where he learnt that a tumour in his right testicle, a teratoma. was a malignant competition acknowledged as form of cancer that required immediate surgery and a

course of chemotherapy. At 23, Parke is a former

world junior champion and, for many experts, the best technical performer produced by English squash. He had reached the top of the national rankings and become the first string of the exciting young England squad that had snatched the world team title from Pakistan in Cairo.

"I was very shocked," he said yesterday. "I first noticed a swelling to my right testicle in December, but forgot to take the prescribed antibiotics while in Bombay playing the Mahindra Challenge.

"By Christmas, it was obvious something serious was going on, so I went back to the doctor on Boxing Day, saw an urologist and was in for surgery on January Z I thought they could just whip it out and that would be the end

"I told everyone f had

appendicitis and would be back in action after missing. the national championships." In fact, there is a month of chemotherapy to deal with the possibility of secondary malignancy. "A sort of insurance," Parke, said. "Although even that was a shock. I thought at first I would be having radiotherapy which seemed less.

Parke is confident that he caught things early, took the right course of action and should be back in action in time for the British Open in April His first 48-hour chemotherapy course finished late on Wednesday. "I feel as sick as a dog and I can't stop biccoughing," he said. "I have a short course next week, just half an hour, then another 48 hour job the week after and another short one on February 22." In. theory, he could stay in training throughout.

"I bave been sitting in hospital with a lot of quite old people, some of whom might not come out," he said, "but I know there is a 95 per cent clear-up rate on testicular cancer, which quite a lot of young men get. We are the lucky ones really. There are some side effects of the treatment, but losing a bit of hair seems unimportant. I might come back and start a trend in headscarves.

"I think this will change my life, get things into perspective a bit. It has been quite a learning period."

His rankings should not be much affected if he gets back into action as he anticipates. but Parke will certainly miss the finals of the Hi-Tec PSA Super Series in Hatfield next month, it seems likely that Mark Cairns, of Oxford, will move into his place among the top eight players of the year's grand prix action.

That is almost the most irritating thing," Parke said. "I have qualified for those playoffs three years running now. The last-two play-offs were held over for lack of sponsorship. Now they get it on and I am too ill to play."

TIMES No 694 DOWN

ACROSS

- 7 1 Give up (4)
 - 3 Without penalty (4-4) 8 Pasta stuffed with meat (7)
- 10 Ship's petty officer (5) 11 Gardener's hut (7,4)
- 13 Of the universe (6) 15 French physicist; unit of
- current (6)
- 17 Pope's office: hold forth (11) 20 Ward off (5)
- 21 Part of line, insect body (7) 22 Decisive confrontation (S)
- 23 Long (family) story (4)
- 1 Tortoise, crab shell (8) 2 Lifeboat crane (5) 4 Shrink in embarrassment
- 5 Ranting (speaker) (3-8)
- 6 Little bit left (7) 7 Sicilian volcano (4)
- 9 Dogmatic (11) 12 Loss of one's marbles (8)
- 14 An overlord (7)
- 16 Puzzle for assembly (6)
- 18 Show-ring (5)
- 19 The Red Planet (4)
- The solution to 693 will be published Wednesday, February 7

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Stanislaus banned for one year made his views on drug abuse clear and

ROGER STANISLAUS, the Leyton Orient defender, yesterday became the first English football player to be suspended from the game for drug abuse. The Football Association punished the former Arsenal, Brentford and Bury player for taking cocaine. The ban takes immediate effect for one year. Leyton Orient will decide at an emergency board meeting on Tuesday whether Stanislaus has any future at the club.

Medical evidence presented to the FA is consistent with Stanislaus, 27, having taken cocaine either just before kick-off, or even at half-time, on the day of the random drugs test at Barnet in November. Although a two- or three-year suspension had been anticipated, the oneyear ban could still spell ruin for Stanislaus's professional career - particularly if Orient do not stand by him. Barry Hearn, the Orient chairman, has

has been keen to promote Orient as part of the east London community, including giving lectures for children on drug abuse. Stanislaus could atone by forming part of that education programme, but Hearn commented: "I think that would be up to the player and the FA to work out

Ferguson wins appeal Asprilla stumbling block ... Freud on Friday ...

and depending on his future at Leyton

samples provided by Stanislaus after Orient's 3-0 defeat at Underhill on November 25. Stanislaus told the FA disciplinary commission that he smoked a banned substance at a family funeral on the Thursday evening before the match. If have lived to face the commission, according to Dr David Cowan, the director of the Drugs Control Centre at King's College, London, who said that Stanislaus would have had to have taken a lethal dose of at least one kilogram of cocaine given the levels of the drug in the sample taken at 6.40pm on the day of the Endsleigh Insurance League third division match.

With medical evidence conclusively proving that Stanislaus took the drug in an attempt to enhance his performance, a one-year ban will be considered relatively lenient. The FA defended its decision on erounds that Stanislaus was not a habitual drugs user.

Stanislaus was not ordered to undergo a drugs rehabilitation scheme, which was the fate of Chris Armstrong, the Tottenham Hotspur forward, when random testing detected that he had used

Carling sets Twickenham priority

BY DAVID HANDS

FOR all the talk of expansive rugby that has emanated from England and Wales this season, the primary objective for both teams will be to win when they meet at Twickenham tomorrow in the second round of the five nations' championship. Style, particuiarly for these developing teams, will be secondary.

If that seems at odds with the sentiments issuing, in particular, from Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, it is not. "You don't develop as a side by losing." Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain. said. "If our best method of winning was to play catch and drive all the time, we would

probably revert to it, but we haven't got that armoury. "Our best style is to move ball about because that's the only way we can compete with the world's best. We have tried

the slamming game up front, which doesn't work for us, so FIVE NATIONS hopefully we can bring some fresh air to the champion-Humphreys believes that after defeat by France, the pressure will be on England,

but that will only be true if England go into the match uncertain of how they intend to play. According to Will Carling, their captain, they are on an upward curve. "Along the way, we would like to score tries, that's the aim in a rugby game," hesaid.

"I love running rugby, that's what I want to play, but more than anything, I want to win. You get a sense of adventure through confidence, through a stable side, from the bond that develops among players. You can't just throw

that together. This is a grow-

ing side, people are keen to

have an input and always have been. Wales will be

confident in their ability so we

CHAMPIONSHIP

will be wary of them and treat them with respect. While England's players

trained in private yesterday. one of their team-mates appeared to be close to recuperarion. Tony Underwood, whose last appearance was against New Zealand in the World Cup semi-final, may take some part in Newcastle's game with West Hartlepool at

Brierton Lane on Sunday, Jack Rowell, the England manager, made a visit to Underwood's fitness in a sea-son that has left him short of competition on the wings. Underwood moved from Leicester to Newcastle while recovering from a knee opera-tion and Rob Andrew, the director of rugby at Kingston Park, hinted that he may participate in the game on Sunday alongside Andrew himself, Nick Popplewell,

Dean Ryan and Peter Walton. Ireland, who sit this weekend out, will take a close interest in the form of David Humphreys when he plays at stand-off half for Ulster against New South Wales on

The Oxford University student is challenging for a first cap against France on February 17. ahead of Eric Elwood. the incumbent, and Paul

> Wales' oew breed, page 34 Gerald Davies, page 34

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Kremlin offer fails to halt showdown that could prove damaging for embattled President

Half a million Russian miners strike over pay

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

the Government and that he did not think the strike would

Yeltsin: pledged to pay

miners suspect, however, that

in many cases managers have

diverted the money into pri-

vate trading companies to make a quick profit.

. The miners' conditions are

not quite as bad as the official statistics might suggest. De-

spite its large and decaying

towns, the Kuzhass region is

in some ways less urbanised than the mining areas of

Western Europe and many

miners are not too far from

their parents or grandpar-

ents' peasant roots. Many live

Life eked out above

and below ground

By ANATOL LIEVEN

HALF a million miners chose President Yeltsin's 65th birthday to go on a nationwide strike yesterday in an echo of the industrial action that helped to bring down Mikhail

The strike went ahead despite last-minute attempts by the Government to dampen. down what could turn into a political challenge to Mr Yeltsin ahead of the presidential elections in June. Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, promised the miners 600 billion roubles (£84 mil-lion) on Tuesday. But most of the outstanding debts to the coal industry are from private companies, not the Government and cannot be paid back

Even conservative figures from the state-run coal company Rosugol put the number of strikers yesterday at more than 300,000 in 118 pits. The miners are demanding wages, which in some cases have not been paid since last October. Miners are better paid than most Russian workers but have to endure appalling liv-ing conditions and the health

THE miners are probably the

only section of the Russian

proletariat with any chance of

launching a real mass protest

"We don't trust the Govern-

ment, the party or our own

leaders, for that matter," a

miner once told me, but we trust each other. Down the

mine, you have to trust each

diseases are appallingly com-

mon and apparently getting worse. It is not unusual for

miners to have to crawl to the

coalface on bands and knees

through pools of sludge and

icy water. The condition of

supporting beams and rescue

that they have often not been

paid for coal supplied. State

power stations and railways

are the worst offenders. The

other, or you're dead." Accidents and respiratory

hazards of poorly maintained end soon. At a noisy demonstration outside the Govern-In the northern city of ment headquarters in the Vorkuta 7,000 miners marchmiddle of Moscow this week ed through the streets carryminers broke their hard hats ing banners saying "Down with hungry reforms!" and "It's there for the war but not on the ground in symbolic protest. They said they had no money left to feed their families. our salaries" and calling on the Government to resign.
Yuri Vishnevsky, a union leader, said that he had not yet had
any serious proposals from

A miners' strike in Ukraine. called simultaneously. brought out 600,000 workers. union leaders said. A group of disabled miners gathered in central Kiev to demand special

The heart of the Russian strike is the West Siberian region of Kuzbass, Russia's biggest mining belt. In 1989 and in the spring of 1991 the Kuzbass came out on strike against Mr Gorbachev and helped Mr Yeltsin to win the presidential elections a lew months later. Now political allegiances have switched and 53 per cent of the population voted for the Communist Party in last December's parlianentary election. It is too early to tell what the

economic effects of the strike will be. Some pits have said they will strike for 48 hours. others that they are going on indefinite strike. According to Aleksandr Yevtushenko, the Russian First Deputy Energy Minister, some remote areas of Siberia and the Far East could be left without power in a couple of days if the strike goes on. The steel industry, which is almost completely reliant on coal, will also suffer.

At the heart of the problem is a vicious circle of unpaid debt between the Government and industry. Many large state companies have not paid the taxes they owe to the Finance Ministry, which in turn says that its coffers are empty. Factories, for their part, say they cannot pay taxes because they are owed money

by their customers. President Yeltsin has signed a series of decrees this week to pay overdue salaries, but has in cottages on their own not indicated how the budget; allotments, where their wives .. which sets strict inflationary grow vegetables and keep a guidelines, will pay for them.

In addition to the miners, Although the climate of the teachers have staged a threegions of Russia this week.

> propaganda weapon for the Communist Party against Mr Yeltsin in the presidential election in June.



Viktor Chernomyrdin and Al Gore are served with a hot dog and a sandwich in New York. The Russian later tackled a pastrami sandwich as well

'Pastrami summit' leaves New York diners in awe

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S Vice-President, Al Gore, has found a new form of political dialogue: "deli diplomacy". Mr Gore took Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, to lunch at the quintessential New York delicatessen. In what has been dubbed "the pastrami summit", the two politicians joined the lunch-time crowd at Katz's, a Jewish deli on Manhattan's lower East Side which, since 1888, has been

known for its sardonic staff and big Things began uncertainly when Mr Chernomyrdin, awed by the bountiful array of nickles, handcut meats and Dr Brown's celery soda, said that he would merely take a hot dog. "A hot dog?" stalled counter "boy" David Tarowsky, 83, who has worked at Katz's for 53 years and has "seen 'em all".

Mr Chernomyrdin, aware of his gaffe, recovered quickly by ordering one of Katz's celebrated, four-inchthick pastrami sandwiches. He created a minor sensation by taking it in addition to the hot dog.

Mr Gore, who likes to watch his

veight, made only a meek attempt at his pastrami and corned beef on rye with mustard. As the order was shouted down the counter by Mr Tarowsky, Katz's regulars nodded

grudging respect, but the Vice-President managed only three bites before summoning a doggy bag. Meanwhile. Mr Chernomyrdin went to work on his lunch and showed himself to be a trencherman. He demolished the bot dog, wiped his brow, and then made creditable headway with the pastrami

There was little opportunity for diplomatic chat as the two men sat at a ordinary table complete with ketchup bottle, napkin dispenser and sugar funnel. A determined Mr Chernomyrdin, chewing ever more slowly, came up only for air and the occasional draught of Diet Pepsi. After 20 minutes he, too, had to call for a doggy shaken in admiration by numerous fellow diners. Fred Austin, co-owner of Katz's, had

bag, but not before his hand had been

earlier said that the Vice-President and his guest would be treated "rudely - like we treat everybody else. It's part of the New York ethos." As they left, however, the deli's manager, Robert Albinder, cooceded: "The Russian guy never stood a chance, but he did well.

Mr Gore left no tip, leading to unfair remarks that "there is clearly only one Tipper in the family" - Mrs Gore's came being Tipper. However, Mr Albinder said that tips were not obligatory for counter-served cus-

Donbass, is hardly suitable. Western experts. What really infuriates the for fruit, the miners do man-miners, bowever, is that for age to grow some. There is again complaining of unpaid age to grow some. There is also hunting in Siberia's for-ests — a bit like Robert De wages. Air traffic controllers the past few years they have received their monthly pay several days later each month. met in Moscow yesterday and voted to postpone a threatened strike until the end of the Niro and his working-class so they are now three or four friends in The Deerhunter. If the situation does not ease Up to now, these amelioramonths behind. The mining companies say tions, and the lack of a

soon, it will be a perfect clearcut cause, ideology or leader, have belped to prevent the miners' discontent from growing into serious unrest.



Zyuganov: has attacked "neo-liberal" regimes

Yeltsin's foe vows to revive Soviet might FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

fears will depose President Yeltsin in June was peddling a distinctly threatening world view in the pages of a leading American newspaper yes-

Writing in The New York Times, Gennadi Zyuganov. the leader of the Russian Communist Party which showed such strong gains in national elections last December, lambasted the "neo-

into and his wife was attacked.

according to a report in

liberal" regimes of Mr Yeltsin and Mikhail Gorbachev, denigrated perestroika and brandeconomic reform a disaster.

Offering a blueprint of Russian-American relations post-Yelisin, Mr Zyuganov said the Communists viewed as dangerous the lack of military and strategic parity between the two countries after the collapse of the former Soviet Union. "We would restore the

might of the Russian state and its status in the world. That

Admiral

of Black

Sea Fleet

is sacked

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN has

dismissed Admiral Eduard

Baltin, the commander of the

troubled Black Sea Fleet, Tass

reported yesterday.
Pavel Grachev, the Russian

Defence Minister, ordered Ad-

miral Baltin to transfer his

Gennadi Suchkov, who will assume the post as head of the

fleet temporarily, the news

Admiral Baltin had long

agency said.

parably more predictable and responsible than they are to-"And we see the restoration

of the union of the former Soviet peoples - based on voluntary association - as a historical oecessity dictated by Russia's needs and those of world security." Foreign policy would be limited to maintaining state

security. Nato expansion and the deployment of alliance troops in the former Yugoslavia were, he said, examples of

would make its policies incom- how such institutions claimed the right to interfere in other

> since the Cold War ended, but relations between our countries are far from harmonious," he said. "Though it must renounce useless and excessive military spending, Russia never was - or could be - a 'junior partner'. Any policy that counts on Russia's remaining in its humiliating position, following in the American wake, is doomed to

Iranian banker disappears 'with £9m'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS has since claimed that the

IRAN'S most trusted banker in Paris has disappeared, allegedly taking with him Fr70 million (£9 million) belonging to the Tehran Government. A Marxist-Leninist group

opposed to the Iranian Government claims that Hedayat Ashtari Larki, the director of the Paris branch of Bank Sepah, Iran's oldest bank, has joined its ranks. Tehran insists that he is merely a thief and a Paris

magistrate is examining the case. Agents of the Iranian secret service are reportedly funting the missing man while their counterparts in Britain and France would also

like to find the elusive banker. For seven years Mr Ashtari handled sensitive economic transactions between France and Iran, but over the past year relations between the banker and his political bosses in Tehran had begun to sour. in December, Mr Ashtari

suddenly moved out of his Paris flat, along with his wife and children. He has not been located since - nor, according to Tehran, has millions of francs from accounts held by Bank Sepah.

Mr Ashtari's motives, however, may be political. The dissident Organisation of Iranian People's Fadaii Guerrillas, one of the exiled groups opposed to the Tehran regime.

FROM REUTER

IN DUBAI

IRAN has restored its capab-

ility to fire anti-ship missiles at

sea, raising fears in the Gulf

about Tehran's growing abili-

ty to control the world's largest

oil-exporting shipping lane,

American forces patrolling

the Gulf this week said that

analysts said yesterday.

missing banker is a committed member of the group. The first sign that the bank-er was no longer getting on

well with his superiors came when he allegedly refused to send a \$6 million (£4 million) commission claimed by some of his bosses for negotiating the sale of three Airbus planes to the company, Safiran. Mr Ashtari later protested

Iran test-fired a Chinese anti-

ship missile on January 6

from a vessel in the Arabian

"Iran now has an anti-ship

capability at sea. This is the

first such capability Iran has

had at sea since 1988 (when

Iranian vessels were attacked

by American forces in the

Gulfl," a Western officer said.

Military sources could not

Sea just outside the Gulf.

when the Tehran Government seized \$1.45 million from the bank account of a company it believed to be linked to the opposition group. The banker is also believed to have played the money markets through a specialist Bureau de Change in Paris.

Tehran late last year. He did not do so, and on November 23 his flat in Paris was broken

say how many of the radar-

guided missiles Iran had, but

they said they could be mount-ed on patrol boats, allowing

them to be moved freely in the

waterway. The missiles have a

American forces clashed

several times with Iranian

units during the Iran-Iraq

War when both sides attacked

range of 60 miles.

L'Express magazine. A few days later Mr Ashtari and his family went into hiding. The dissident group has warned the Iranian secret service that if anything happens to Mr Ashtari "the response will be severe". The He was ordered to return to

group claimed that the banker had found it "more and more difficult to accept the antipopular actions of the Iranian regime and kept his distance Tehran missile test fuels Gulf fears from them. The regime tried to get Mr Ashtari back to Iran at

all costs. As the banker in charge of some of Iran's most delicate economic operations. Mr Ashtari is believed to have been privy to information the Tehran regime would rather not have disclosed. "As soon as Mr Ashtari is safe, he will explain these scandals in de-

opposed the division of the fleet between Russia and Ukraine and his uncompromising stance was increasingtail," the dissident group's ly viewed in Moscow as an statement said. obstacle in improving relations between the two countries.

Problems arose over the jurisdiction of the fleet after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The fleet is based in Sevastopol, a port on the Black Sea peninsula of Crimea which is located in Ukraine.

Both Russia and Ukraine, eager to build up its armed forces as a newly independent state, claimed control of the fleet and it took several years of tough negotiations to reach agreement on its division. There had also been sporadic clashes between vessels in the fleet crewed by Russians and Ukrainians.

Complete agreement has still to be achieved on the final breakdown of all naval hardware as well as the terms under which Russia will be able to operate the naval hases in Ukraine.

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Wildlife brigade stalks tiger poachers in Siberia



A Siberian tiger: threat of extinction has diminished

TIGER poachers in Siberia. who often work in league with the Russian mafia, are being beaten by wildlife patrols.

Experts feared the extinction of the Siberian tiger within four years as poachers had reduced a growing population of 400 tigers in 1989 to just 150 by the beginning of 1994. But poaching of the animal has fallen by 75 per cent in the past 18 months after the introduction of special patrols, according to the investigative Network, a wildlife conservation charity. Operation Amba, an anti-

poaching brigade launched

Environment two years ago

By Leyla Linton

by the network says.

and funded by environmental groups worldwide, has helped to reduce tiger poaching from an estimated 60 a year to between ten and 15, a report

The brigade consists of four mobile anti-poaching teams the Primorsky region, which is home to 85 per cent of the Siberian tiger population. Each team, of about five people, is equipped with at least one military-style truck and radios. The operation costs about £100,000 a year.

Sue Fisher, one of the authors of the report, hopes by the Russian Ministry of the the anti-poaching teams will

ation of an international Siberian tiger sanctuary in Russia. She said: "If the proposed sanctuary is financed, it will provide a secure eco-system for a whole bost of other threatened wildlife."

The Siberian tiger is the which is ground down for a

victim in a month.

be consolidated with the cre-

largest of the species, and its street value can be as high as £40,000 for skins and bone,

medicine or aphrodisiac. The tigers are sometimes capable of defending themselves. Interfax reported this week that two tigers bad killed a hunter, the third such

Critics of £440m aid for ailing airline say decision flies in face of fair competition

احكنامن الاصاء

Britain considers legal challenge to Iberia handout

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE British Government may mount a legal challenge to the European Commission's decision to let Iberia. Spain's national airline, receive another £440 million in

Tony Newton, the Leader of the House, told the Commons yesierday that the Government had not ruled out such a challenge. "This seems to us at best a weak decision which threatens to undermine all our efforts to establish fair competition in the Community aviation market," he said.

Tory MPs, who expressed their anger at the handout yesterday, claim that Iberia is a state monolith, still in the grip of powerful unions, nepo-

tistic, protected, inefficient and uncaring of the needs of its passengers. Spain's state-owned giant has, they say, failed to come to terms with the new Europe, it is bureaucratic and cosseted by a chauvinistic Government anxious only to "fly the flag".

Iberia, they claim, not only pays many of its staff especially its pilots - ridiculously high salaries, but distorts competition by cutting fares to unrealistic levels, safe in the knowledge that if they se money the Government will bail them out. Many pilots joke that nepo-

tism is so engrained on the airline that the flight deck of an Iberian jet is the closest

HOW BA BEATS IBERIA						
Shareholders	BRITISH AIRWAYS	IBERIA				
Turnover.	£7 billion	£2.3 billion				
Debt	£3.7 billion	£1.2 billion				
Operating profit	£681 million	£32 million				
Pre-tax profit	£327 million	£269 million loss				
Aircraft	283	97				
Passengers	30.5 million	13 million				
Average loads	71.6 per cent	68.8 per cent				
Destinations	169 5 7 122 1 2	73				
Flights per day	1,000	450				
Employees :	53,000	23,576				

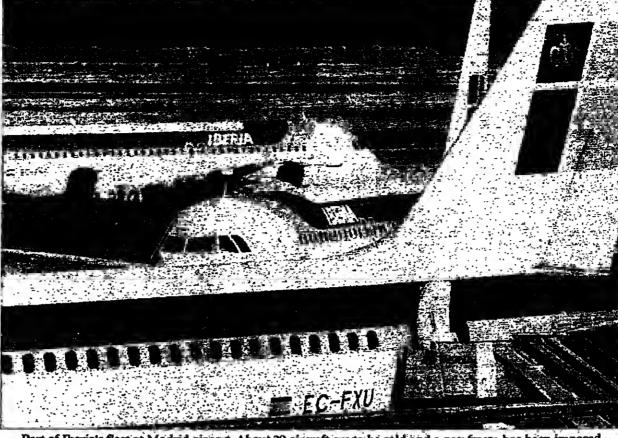
thing to heaven because the son is always sitting at the right hand of the father.

Other critics say that, having been given European Commission approval in 1992 for £600 million of state money, the lumbering airline has formally been given the go-ahead to receive another £450 million and an understanding that they will get another £100 million from the Spanish Government next

However, Iberia considers much of the criticism from the likes of British Airways and British Midland to be based on a misunderstanding of the Spanish tradition that senior staff ensure that their children and other relatives are in line for a job when one arises.

Iberia says that because Spain is on the periphery of Europe, it cannot compete with the dominant northern airlines such as BA. It does not have a global network of routes and often has to fly on inprofitable ones.

The airline is also smarting under the domination of the holiday market by British and German charter operators which are, with typical Spanish hospitality, welcomed with



Part of Iberia's fleet at Madrid airport. About 20 aircraft are to be sold and a pay freeze has been imposed

The money Iberia has received is not state aid, the airline argues, but has been raised by Teneo, the quasigovernmental holding organ-isation that has sold other state-owned enterprises and is using the proceeds to keep Iberia alive until its restruc-

turing plan can take effect. The planned changes are and will mean that many of the airline's own investments will have to be disposed of At least 8,500 staff take their case to the Euro-will have been laid off between pean Court as they did with

1991 and 1999; a pay freeze is in force; almost 20 aircraft are. going to be sold; and tight new productivity targets will have to be met while the Commission keeps a careful watch on. now the extra money is spent.

It was an argument which swayed Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner, Britain's airlines are waiting until a transcript of the Commission's decision is available before deciding whether to Air France. But with other state-owned airlines lining up to follow Iberia's path to Mr Kinnock's door, the British are determined to prevent any further handouts.

Swissair is the only other large European scheduled carrier which is wholly privately owned. Lufthansa is rapidly shedding its state holding and becoming more aggressive in its marketing. Olympic, Aer Lingus, Air France and TAP Portugal are, like Iberia, 100 per cent state-owned. Alitalia

has an 86.4 per cent state holding. Sabena 62 per cent; Finnair 61 per cent; Austrian 52 per cent; SAS 50 per cent; and KLM 38 per cent.

Since 1991 six European airlines have received capital injections through their governments of more than £7 billion, which private airlines could not have raised. Where, British companies are asking. is the promised "level playing field" in European aviation?

Spain to champion teaching

IN MADRID

SPAIN has launched one of the most advanced language programmes in Europe for state schools. Within three years, most pupils at state infant schools will start to learn English from the age of three and will continue until leaving secondary school, studying a syllabus provided by the British Council, with exam results recognised in Britain.

The breakthrough by the despite an increase of competition in language teaching and severe cuts in its budget which will lead to the loss of re-

sources and staff. David Brighty, the British Ambassador in Madrid, and Jeronimo Saavedra, the Minister of Education and Science, signed an agreement for the British Council to oversee the syllabus, provide materials and recruit English teachers for 43 state schools in Spain with a total of 10,000 pupils.

Señor Saavedra said 900 Spanish state schools would introduce the council's Eng hish-teaching programme, starting with the country's youngest pupils, from September. His ministry is spending about £500,000 on the pilot scheme, which will primarily benefit children in poor city suburbs whose parents cannot afford the private English lessons that many rich Span-ish children take. Many later go to British, Irish or American universines.

The earlier the start in bilingual education, the better, said Ray Holliday, the headmaster of the British Council school in Madrid. Ministers in the Socialist Government have had no qualms about sending their children to the school, which has 1,776 pupils and fees of about £5,000

· However, cuts of £22 million in the council's international budget mean that at least ten administrators in Madrid will be lost.

"We still teach English to ahout 17,000 Spaniards around Spain," said Peter Taylor, regional director-general of the council, "but we have been hit by improved teaching of English in schools and more competition.

National interests prevail in Brussels battles for state subsidies

BRUSSELS yesterday shrugged off the row over the EU Commission's decision to allow the Spanish state to shovel £440 million into lberia. Officials acknowledged, however, that, coming on top of a string of similar cases, the Iberia rescue has dented the Commission's credibil-

ity.
"We got a pretty good deal considering the pressures involved," said an official close to the bargaining that resulted in the Commission approving the second hig funding for Iberia in four years, despite its policy that loss-makers can only get one lot of state aid. Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner who is responsible

for the airline industry, was taking

Coming after previous cases involving the prestige of national bodies, the handout has dented the Commission's credibility, Charles Bremner writes

comfort from the argument that his team had squeezed down Iberia's initial demand for a sum some 60 per cent higher and imposed stringent terms for restructuring which have not gone down well in Spain. They also emphasised their finding that the case did not involve direct state aid but a commercial investment hy a state-controlled holding company. The argument has set industry experts chortling. Mr Kinnock's uneasy

mance when he explained the deal on Tuesday suggested a man whose free-market principles, proclaimed with fervour when he arrived in Brussels a year ago, had come off the worse from 12 months in office. A similar weathering has afflicted Karel van Miert, the Flemish Socialist who polices state aid in industries apart from transport. So much national interest is at stake in such decisions that political considerations prevail. As one offi-

cial said: "There was just no way the past six months to ensure that that Brussels was going to put to death a national flag-carrier, however lame it looks."

Such realism helped to swing Sir Leon Brittan, Britain's senior commissioner and former competition chief, behind the Iberia decision, which was taken unanimously by the 20 commissioners. Some officials dismissed the British criticism as a reflection of the "Europhobia" In the Conservative Government. They would have been screaming in the other direction if the Commission had scuppered some cherished British institution," one said. Felipe González, the Spanish

Prime Minister, had campaigned

during his presidency of the EU in

of aid to Seat. Volkswagen's loss-making Spanish subsidiary. Two years ago, the might of the French state was brought to bear to win approval for £2.4 billion for Air France, £5.5 billion for Credit yonnais and £1.3 billion for Groupe Bull, the nationalised computer firm. Other airlines queuing up successfully at the till were Greece's Olympic, Air Portugal and Aer Lingus, Britain, officials note, has lob-

two big state rescues went through.

These were Iberia and £236 million

bied for itself in two recent subsidy cases. Mr Van Miert's departmentis on the verge of approving most of an £80 million package in which British taxpayers will help to finance a new Jaguar plant at Castle Bromwich, Birmingham, Without the money, Ford, Jaguar's American parent, said it would switch production to America. Delays in the approval were ascribed by some in Whitehall to annoyance in Brussels over the Government's obstruction in other EU decisions. In the other case, Brussels last year backed a British grant of £61 million, contested by EU clothing companies, to a Northern Ireland textiles plant.

Officials say the Commission's decisions have been influenced by a climate in which the fear of unemployment has become the paramount force on the Continent.

tions about investing too much

power in one person, a legacy of the Mussolini dictatorship.

Signor Scalfaro looked re-

lieved, and said that patience-

had paid off. His move comes

after weeks of speculation

after the resignation on Jami-

ary Il of Lamberto Dini, the

interim Prime Minister ap-

pointed just over a year ago after the collapse of the centre-

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Italy gets new Prime Minister

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME. June. It will also provide Italy Many Italians have reserva-

PRESIDENT SCALFARO yesterday ended weeks of political uncertainty by nominating Antonio Maccanico, a highly respected bureaucrat and constitutional expert, to head a broad-based Government of National Unity in

Italy.

The lira rose immediately. and Signor Maccanico said he hoped his economic pro-gramme would enable the line to rejoin the exchange-rate

If Signor Maccanico succeeds in forming a govern-ment the move will avoid disruptive elections during Italy's presidency of the Euro-

gramme included proposals for a "French style" direct election of the Italian President. At present the head of state is elected by parliament and is largely a figurehead, although he plays a key role in

with a breathing space during which the stalled constitution-

al reforms begun three years ago can be carried through.

Sources close to the coalition talks reported last night that

the Maccanico reform pro-

coalition negotiations. Any such change to the constitution would need a twothirds majority in parliament. The details of the proposal have yet to be made clear.

right coalition led by Silvio

Berlusconi, the leader of Forza Signor Scalfaro's aim is to end the instability caused by

weak coalitions known as Shadowy 'fixer' takes top job

55th government since the Second World War. The outcome is a setback for Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the "post-Facist" Alleanza Nazionala, who almost alone

ments. Signor Maccanico's

administration will be Italy's

among the main party leaders had held out for elections. Opinion polls suggested that he would have gained votes, whereas Signor Berlusconi, who is on trial for corruption. would have lost ground as would the parties of the Centre Left. Signor Scalfaro played on these fears by threatening to call an election unless the parties came to terms.

Signor Fini nonetheless joined other party leaders in giving the Maccanico appointment a cautious welcome, saying the Prime Ministerdesignate had "always acted

impartially. Signor Maccanico will today begin to try to form a Cabinet. It will include the key parties of both Left and Right. but is unlikely to include the Northern League led by Unite berto Bossi, who yesterday remarked caustically that Maccanico sounded like mechanic in Italian and that the new Prime Minister was yet another technocrat rather

than a real politician.

Signor Maccanico said he hoped his Government would enjoy solid and serious backing and could continue the reform begun in 1993. when Italy adopted a partial first-past-the-post electoral system in conjunction with proportional representation.

acquired the nickname "The BY RICHARD OWEN Mechanic, not only as a play LIKE his predecessor Lam-berto Dini, Antonio Maccaon his name but also because of his skill in manipulating nico has the reputation of the government machine. Now, can emerge from the shadows as leader in his own right. He served as head of the

being a technocrat and is hence a suitable candidate to pursue Italy's reform process. However, unlike Signor Dini, who alienated politi-cians while in office, Signor Macanico has some hope of gaining all party backing. Now 7L he has spent a lifetime in the backroom of Italian politics, and as one observer noted: "He knows where the bodies are buried." After years at the elbow of successive Italian leaders as a

fixer', Signor Maccanico has

instant access to the most

powerful figures in Italy. He

Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, who was leader between April 1993 and May 1994. Born in August 1924, near Naples. Signor Maccanico studied law at Pisa. He be-came a parliamentary official in 1947 at the age of 23, when Italy was reshaping its democratic structure after Mussolim's period of fascism. Except for a one-year stint as a

Prime Minister's office for banker, he has been a career.

Maccanico: adept at

Spa cures run dry in Kohl's painful cuts

GERMAN workers, particularly the rheumatic ones accustomed to regular, paid spa cures, were yesterday up in arms about plans by Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, to cut social welfare spending to keep the country on target for monetary union.

This could his us very badly," said a spokesman for Germany's spa resorts, which have been benefiting from unusually generous provisions allowing ordinary workers to take the waters, Some

civil servants have been taking cures every two years, with the cost paid by the state health insurance and their salary paid by the employer as usual. Now Herr Kohl wants Germans to take only three weeks" cure every four years. If the cure lasts longer, the patient will have to secrifice part of his or her annual holiday.

For many Germans this will be the most painful cut of all. Spa life - with its regular glasses of fresh spring water. its mud and herbal packs - is

one of the few remaining throwbacks to the leisured 19th century. In the years of the postwar-economic miracle. the annual cure provided by the welfare state kept public service and industrial workers going at their breakneck pace. The most fashionable spas, such as Baden Baden were usually out of financial reach - hotel costs were not always paid - but scores of minor

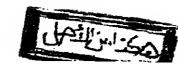
German resorts, almost al-

ways identified by the preface

Bad (bath) rediscovered old

mineral springs and set themselves up as centres of restorative medicine. Doctors have usually been understanding in signing release forms for a

The fact is that Herr Kohl's package is designed more to encourage and stimulate prompt workers to work harder. Unemployment benefit will be available for longer than one year only to those older than 45 years. Previously the lower age limit was 42.



Transatlantic alliance is vital for European security, French President tells Congress

Chirac calls "for reform of Nato's military role

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CHIRAC, on the first state visit to America by a French leader in 12 years, yesterday proposed a transatlantic charter to reform Nato and place more responsibility for security on Europe.
In his address to a joint

session of Congress before talks with President Clinton, M Chirac called for a renewed partnership between the United States and its Nato allies. He said American commitment, both militarily and politically, was still essential to the stability and security of a growing Europe, but he emphasised that Washington need not always play an active

"The best security today lies in solidarity," said M Chirac after receiving a standing majority on Capitol Hill The reform of Nato must also enable the European allies to assume fully their responsibilities, with the support of Nato facilities, wherever the United States does not wish to engage its ground forces."

Thirty years after de Gaulle had withdrawn French forces from Nato, he said, France was once more at the heart of the alliance. In reforming

Nato, the French President recommended the adoption of a charter as a "solemn sign of the vitality of our alliance" and a pillar of global leadership in the 21st century.

An enlarged European Union and a single currency would be a natural part of European progression. Al-ready, M. Chirac said, there was a balance between the two continents with three million Europeans working in American companies and the same number of Americans work-

ing in Europe.
The joint military action in Bosnia-Herzegovina between Britain, France and America underscored the need for Nato to adapt similarly in terms of security. To a universe that is no longer that in which it was born," M Chirac said, "I call for a renewed partnership between Europe, engaged in its own construction, including in the field of defence, and our North American allies."

A number of Democrats had boycotted the address yesterday, claiming that M Chirac's proclamation on Monday to abandon nuclear tests had come too late in the wake of six French experiments in the South Pacific. He



nevertheless received warm applause after making a ledge that France had finished its nuclear testing, "once and for all.

Republicans have long admired the "bulidozer" style of M Chirac's foreign policy which, before recent American intervention in Bosnia and Ireland, had been a refreshing contrast to the wavering image of Mr Clinton. For his part, M Chirac has been a

staunch admirer of America since his sojourn in the United States as a student at Harvard in 1953. He washed dishes at Howard Johnson, was briefly engaged to a girl from South Carolina who called him "honey chile" and wound up in New Orleans courting such

jazz greats as Cab Calloway. Despite the warmth of his reception, particularly from Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, M Chirac touched on several areas which will un-dermine the more radical isoladonist programme of some Republicans long opposed to American intervention in the world and still resentful of M Chirac for his influential role in reversing American policy over Bosnia

Insisting that America resist any temptadon towards unilateralism, the French leader said that Europe offered three times the amount of foreign

aid as the United States. Citing threats from Aids and disasters like Chernobyl, illegal immigracion, religious fanaticism and ethnic hatred, M Chirac said the biggest threat was underdevelopment.
It was a moral obligation for

the West, he said, to help the poorest nations of the world to prosper. He urged Congress to support the United Nations, the World Trade Organisation and other international bodies

that brought the alliance closer together diplomaocally and in terms of trade.

The address, the fourth by a French President since the Second World War, was conducted in French, a language that was studiously absent from the White House menu last night. Under Hillary Clinton, state dinner menus are written in English rather than in the French used in the Reagan and Bush years.

WORLD SHAMEN

Internet porn leads

to arrest

Tokyo: A businessman was arrested in Tokyo yesterday on suspicion of distributing pornography on the Internet (Peregrine Hodson writes).

Hiroshi Kamekura, 28, is the first person in Japan to be arrested in a criminal case involving the Internet. The arrest followed a police raid on his home and the house of a high school studens. Mr Kamekura has admitted to police that he knew it was wrong to disseminate pornographic images, but said he was interested by the

Internet's operacion. Although Japan is one of the most advanced countries when it comes to computers the Japanese have been slow to catch on to the Internet, not icacions are in English.

Mugabe faces poli challenge

Harare: President Mugabe lost the chance of a walkover in his quest for a third term as Zimbabwe's executive head of state when officials accepted the challenges put forward by Abel Muzorewa, 71, who was Prime Minister of Zimbabwe-Rhodesia, and Ndabaningi Sithole, 77, the veteran African nationalist leader (Michael Hartnack writes). Observers say neither has a chance of defeating Mr Mugabe.

Bahrain expels Iranian envoy

Bahrain, shaken by demonstrations, expelled an Iranian diplomat for spying (Michael Binyon writes). The Government has virtually named Iran as the instigator of the riots, largely by Shia groups which have called for a restoration of the 1975 constitution. Three dissident Muslim clergy, trained in Iran, were expelled in December 1994,

Dissident in line for peace prize

Peking: China criticised the nomination of Wei Jingsheng, a leading Chinese dissident, for the Nobel Peace Prize (James Pringle writes). It said Mr Wei, sentenced to 14 years' jail last December, was a convicted criminal and not qualified for such an award. He was nominated by 81 members of the US Congress and Japanese politicians.

The father of all ambitions

Jerusalem: A man who has 42

Botched brewery visit fails to refresh flagging Dole

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ROBERT DOLE'S handlers presidential candidate to visit a New Hampshire brewery late on Wednesday, then abruptly cancelled the engagement when they discovered it produced a beer called "Old

Hours later the visit was restored after Steve Merrill. New Hamoshire's Governor. and leading Dole supporter, argued that to be seen ducking the age issue would look even orse. Mr Dole gamely held up a bottle of "Old Man Ale" for the cameras, tasted it, and declared it "young and fresh".

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This botched outing underscored how everything is suddenly going wrong for Mr Dole after months as the Republicans' undisputed poll yesterday gave Steve. Forbes, the free-spending publishing tycoon, a nine-point lead over Mr Dole in New. Hampshire with less than three weeks until that state's . able poll gave Mr Dole a sixpoint lead over Mr Forbes, but everyone agrees the race has narrowed dramatically over. the past few days,

-In Washington, Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, fur-ther boosted Mr Forbes's er credibility by praising hun as a "genuine risk taker" and challenging the conventional wisdom that a political outsider cannot win the Republican nomination.

The Republican party's worries go beyond producing a viable presidential nominee, however. Exit polls showed it lost Tuesday's Senate by-elecnon in Oregon because women - infuriated by Republican assaults on social programmes, abortion rights and Hillary Clinton - turned frontrunner. A Boston Globe . out in unprecedented force and voted heavily Democratic.

National polls confirm that

the "gender gap" has widened to historic proportions since the Republicans seized Capitol Hill in 1994 and this could cost primary. A second, more reli- the party dearly in Novem-

ber's congressional and presidential elections. In Oregon 10 per cent more

men voted Republican than Democrat, while 8 per cent more women voted Democratic than Republican. What made the difference was that a remarkable 57 per cent of voters were women.

A Wall Street Journal poll in December showed men equally divided between Mr Clinton and Mr Dole, but women backing the President by 54 per cent to 36. They overwhelmingly considered social problems such as education and poverty more important than the Republican priority of deficit reduction. A principal reason the Re-

publicans won Congress in 1994 was a low female vote with a majority of white women voting Republican. Mr Clinton won the White House in 1992 with just 46 per cent of the women's vote. In 1976 men and women voted in identical percentages for Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter.

Monks held over foetus swindle'

Tokyo: Police arrested nine Buddhist monks yesterday on suspicion of organising swindles that may total £200 million (Peregrine Hodson writes). Two of the men are accused of demanding cash for exorcising "bad spirits", including the souls of aborted foctuses.

According to Japanese Buddhist belief, the souls inhabit a nether world and prayers, offerings and monetary donations are necessary to belo them to a better world.

Gishun Nishikawa, a senior monk at Myokakuji temple in Wakayama prefeeture, and Keijiro Yano, who heads Monganji temple in Nagoya, were arrested on suspicion of fraud. Another seven monks have been arrested in related frauds and swindles at 27 temples

throughout Japan. Brother Nishikawa is alleged to have developed a lucrative sideline selling images of the Buddha to women who had abortions, cashing in on their sense of guilt and

Death toll mounts as seized Tamils name suicide bomber

FROM VIJITHA YAPA IN COLOMBO find a lasting solution to the

THE death toll in the bombing at the Central Bank building in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, rose to 81 yesterday.

Two of the attackers, cap-tured by the public as they fled from the scene on Wednesday, told police that they were members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam. The two men, known simply as Rasu and Kittu, said the suicide lorry driver was called Raju. The lorry, filled with rice husk, had left Vavuniya in northern Sri Lanka on Monday and had arrived in Colombo the next day, ft was escorted to the Central Bank by three trisbaws filled with armed rebels. The two captured rebels had a powerful radio receiver, rifles, grenades and suicide kits when they

were overpowered. Meanwhile, President Bandaranaike Kumaratunga said the attack was an act of desperation by the Tigers. She said it had come at a time when the Government was making a genuine effort to

causes of terrorism. She said terrorism had to be eliminated and thanked the people for their patience. It is significant that for the

first time after a major bomb explosion, the Government did not rush to impose a curfew. The people reacted calmly and members of the minority Tamil community said they did not feel threatened, but were frightened. The attempt by successive governments to show that terrorism by a few individuals should not be used to condemn the minority Tamil community seems to have succeeded. The Governor of the Central

Bank, A S Jayewardene, said that money in the vaults was safe as were certain vital documents. The activities of the bank would be back to normal in a few days. Mr Jayewardene said that of the bank's 2,300 employees, about 1.800 worked in the bombed building. He said 40 of their staff had died and 152 were

the immediate area of the blast. But traffic on the main road past the president's residence of Temple Trees, near the British High Commission, which was reduced to one lane each way from last year, will be further restricted. Only cars will be allowed to use the road from Friday. Meanwhile, hospital au-thorides said 53 of the 81 dead had so far been identified.

injured. Banks and business

houses functioned as normal

yesterday except for those in

Soldiers and firemen who began clearing the rubble yesterday feared there may be more bodies buried under the wreckage, though the chances of finding anyone alive was described as "very remote". Hospital authorities said 1.400 people injured were

the majority of the more than treated for cuts from glass. Doctors at the Government General Hospital said they had never experienced so many people needing medical attention simultaneously, but that they had coped.

children in the United Arab Emirates, aims to be the country's biggest father (Christopher Walker writes). "If God wills, I may get 60 sons," Salim Juma Mubarak told the daily Khaleej Times. His three wives are all expecting babies. He has 22 sons.



How Dunhill viewed glamour in the 1950s

Videos put the fire back into smoking

SMOKERS in America, besieged by the anti-nicotine lobby and clean-air fanatics, are buoying their morale by watching

rigarette videos". The 30-minute films, distributed discreetly among addicts of the weed, show women doing little more than smoking a succession of cigarettes. In modern Amer-

ica there are few things more wicked. Edward Luisser, a shopkeeper from Oklahoma City, has made a selection of eight films which are selling in increasing numbers to embattled smokers. The \$25 (£16) movies feature fully clad women fighting up and then smoking as many as ten cigarettes. The films concentrate on

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

smoking techniques, such as the "French inhale", once popular on the silver screen. The smoke is exhaled momentarily from the mouth, and then inhaled briskly un the nostrils. Some of Mr Luisser's films dwell on packet opening, or the tapping out of the first cigarette.
Mr Luisser, 42, who learned to appreci-

ate Winston cigarettes while a sergeant in the US army, took his inspiration from hazy memories of New York in the 1950s. "I have tried to recreate all those elegant women who used to smoke, wearing veiled hats and opera gloves," he said yesterday. He researched the photographic techniques of old black-and-white

portraitists and invited female friends to sit for his cameras. The films bear their oames, for instance Paula and April. His typical customer, he said, is "at the upper end of the bell curve, intellectually".

Mike Williams, editor of a pro-smoking newsletter, Smoke Signals, said that a number of such videos were being made, and sold healthily. A very few, made by companies separate from Mr Luisser, contain mildly suggestive moments, but most of them eschew sexuality. Professor Richard Klein, of the French (Gitanes) department of Cornell University, New York, said: "The anti-smoking people have only glamourised smoking."

Space frontier pushed back By NIGEL HAWKES

SCIENCE EDITOR AMERICAN astronomers

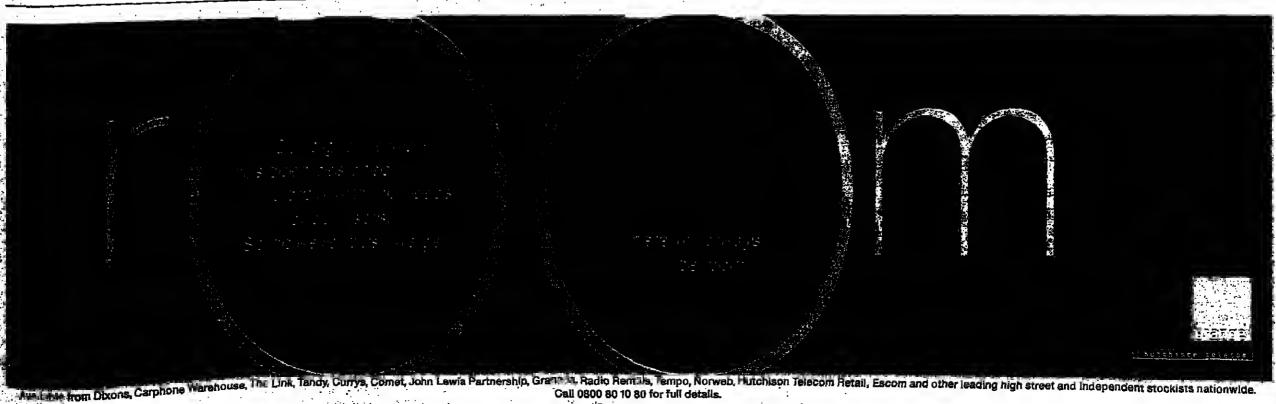
have discovered the most distant galaxy yet, some 14 billion light years from the Earth. Its huge distance means that it must have formed very early in the history of the universe, perhaps no more than a billion years after the Big Bang. The discovery was made by astronomers from the California Institute of Technology, using the world's largest opocal telescope in Hawaii. Dr Thomas Barlow,

one of the team responsible. says that the galaxy was found when the astronomers were observing an even more distant object, a quasar.

What the astronomers see, he says, is "the shadow of the galaxy in the spectrum of the quasar". The observations, reported in Astrophysical Research Letters, enable the galaxy to be dated by measuring its red shift — the amount by which its light is shifted towards the red end of the spectrum. Dr Barlow said: This is essendally the highest red-shift galaxy that we've

detected, which means it's the closest to the beginning of the

universe". The newly discovered galaxy has some similarioes to more recent galaxies, including the Milky Way. But the galaxy has quantides of car-bon, oxygen, silicon, aluminium and iron only one half to I per cent of those in the Milky Way. This confirms that the light we are seeing came from the galaxy when it was very young, and had not had time for the stars it contains to generale heavier elements.



Small body, big voice, big heart



Thomas Ouasthoff is a world-class singer first and a thalidomide victim second

the most remarkable thing about Thomas Quasthoff is his voice. Not just his singing voice, but his speaking voice, which is rich and deep, punctuated with bursts of steniorian laughter that seem fantastically vigorous coming from one so small.

Wednesday night's ap-plause, at the end of his London debut recital at the Wigmore Hall, was tumultuous. As he walked on stage and began to sing Schubert's Ganymed, tears started in many eyes. He gave us Prometheus, the Erl-King, the Owarf, His choice of songs—especially sardonic, perhaps, was Goethe's Grenzen der Menscheit ("Man's Limitations.") tions"): "For no mortal shall measure himself against the gods" - affected the audience deeply, and set them pondering on the courageous spirit of a singer who has overcome the most daunting of limitations.

Ouasthoff was born near Hanover in 1959. His mother had taken thalidomide (the drug prescribed to combat morning sickness in pregnancy, which resulted in terrible growth defects in otherwise perfectly healthy babies) and Thomas was an early victim. "A pioneer," he says with a burst of laughter, "a nice word for a bad fact." His tiny hands grow straight from his shoulders. His legs are dwarfishly short. But his lungs are strong,



Thomas Quasthoff couldn't study at a music college because the rules insisted that students of singing must also play an instrument, and there were no concessions for a boy without arms

his face is handsome, his mind razor-sharp, he is the most wholeheartedly enthusiastic man you could meet and, of course, he has this extraordi-

Nobody could spend a lifetime dwelling on misfortune and he is quick to dismiss the subject - after a brief passing reference to the powerful pharmaceutical industry that allowed a drug to be marketed even after it was suspected of causing disability. That is what you call capitalism I think. Heh heh!" He has to live with "the fact" every day. So he stead, he read law at univer-

is thankful for his voice, and for loving parents who encour-

He started as a boy soprano in a choir at 14. There was constant music at home: piano, saxophone, clariner, he grew up hearing Mozart and Bach, his elder brother's Jethro Tull records, his own collection of jazz. He wanted to study at a music college, but the rules insisted that students of singing must also play a musical instrument. No special concession could be made for a boy without arms. In-

sity, and later worked in broadcasting.

But he never gave up singing; he took private lessons, and is glad of it. "I have had time to develop my voice in quiet, and not be influenced by the intrigues of the music high school. Others study for three or four years, then go in large opera houses and have to sing parts that are much too difficult for their voice, and their careers are often very short."

He owes his technique to a brilliant voice teather. Charlotte Lehmann. "And I think my way of singing is very

influenced by my own life, my own feelings, troubles, happi-nesses, At 36 I am intelligent enough to know what is important and what is not."

The turning point in his life was 1988, when he won first prize in the ARD International Music Competition in Munich. "I ask myself, do I win this competition because I and talented? Or do I have a bonus for my disability? But I think my life since then is a confirmation of the jury's decision. Sometimes a person wins a competition and after a few years, nobody remembers the

His hands flutter expressively as he talks. "I am able, really I am ABLE, to enjoy. And that makes my life very rich. I am a very gifted person!

One blessing is his gregari-ousness. "If you are not in a good retationship with nature, and with other people, if you are not positive and able to love, then you will never be a good artist, never. It is a

symbiosis. If you are an unfriendly, ignoring person, don't be a singer. If you are cold, you have a cold voice." The warmth of his person-

ality captivated the English Chamber Orchestra, whom he did a Mediterranean music cruise last summer. I am told Quasthoff flung really himself into shipboard life - swim-ABLE, to ming. drinking, playing table tenenjoy. It nis. And after the Wigmore concert.

friends flung them-selves down on the floor to hug and kiss him. "The first time I come into the concert hall. I know people think. Oh my God, this disability, oh my God'. But that is completely over when I start to sing. And then, it is not just that they say There is such power in his voice - there

must be something else that I

in the green room.

must think: Something hap-

pens.' It is for the audience to y what it is." He believes that conquering disability must have given him an added sensitivity.

Because it's work to accept disability. and it's not a work 'I am able,

that ever finishes. At the moment I have a normal life. . I am a successful person, I am very independent, and I get the gift to be makes my loved, the biggest present you can get, bigger than the most successful concert."

The next opportunity we have to hear him is on March 12 at the Barbican. in the presence of the Prince of Wales, when he will sing Mozart with the English Chamber Orchestra, conducted by Pinchas Zukerman. He will also sing Britten's War Requiem in Edinburgh this August. He is hody in de mand, booked to work vir Sir Simon Rattle and Sir Colin

Davis later this year. "Our professional life is not always easy, I love my job but I don't love the business. If I only work with music I have the most beautiful profession in the world, but the bad fact is that agents want money - not in my case, Tania Collette is not only a wonderful agent but a good critic - but some agents think not about the singer but only that he is good for the agency.

don't want to get famous, I want to get better. I want to work with good conductors, I never want to be a slave of my music life. My private life, my private love, is as important. I don't want to sing 120 concerts a year and ask myself when I am'53, where did my life go?

"I am in the world to read, walk, smell, listen, enjoy nature, sit down with the singing of birds and the atmosphere of flowers," (he has a horror of polluted, traffic clogged cities) enjoy being with friends, and going to the theatre, and being with my brother, or being alone with books, or being

together with my girlfriend.
"Sitting with the person you love in the same room, exchanging no words, look of each other in the eyes. The home of my girlfriend is so beautiful to see. How she has arranged the room, so beautiful with old wood, and nice things ... He stops himself: But that is my private life and it is only mine.

But, he adds, a beautiful room can give peace and pleasure. A room like this one" (we are in the house of Charles Spencer, the accompanist, who has tastefully converted his Victorian house in Kennington) "reminds you there is so much to enjoy in life, literature, theatre. When I am finished singing I will definitely be a rich person, not in money so much, but I am so interested in everything. I am a man who will never in my life sit down in front of the television and say wearily 'Oh God, let's have a look what's on the other programme'..."

Fie calls himself a severe critic of other singers. "I am not able to sing every concert in the world for baritone or bass baritone. So I am happy

absolutely brilliant and beautiful it made me cry.

"As I get older, I think somebody up there has a very helping hand to influence my life. Not only in concerts but in my private life I feel that what we call God is very near. Because I've got many presents in my life. I'm thankful every day."

that there are plenty of very

good, very beautiful other

voices. In Tokyo we had to

have a new soprano at the last minute, and when Dorothea

Roschmann began to sing at

the rehearsal, she was so

THE SUNDAY TIMES

MARK THATCHER SPIES HIS CHANCE



It's the Great Game all over again. Oil-rich Baku in the former Soviet Union is a hotbed of intrigue as nations and entrepreneurs battle for the spoils. And Mark Thatcher is after a slice of the action . . . See the Magazine on Sunday

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THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

In the shadow of the stalker

Dr Raj Persaud

reports on a

frightening and violent obsession

ith the Home Office considering new measures to deter alkers, and the police hunting a stalker who raped a woman while she was under their protection, the need to understand this obsessional behaviour is urgent. In 25 per cent of cases stalkers eventually assault their victims.

Although the fan pursuing a celebrity usually grabs the headlines, in half the cases the

stalker has had some kind of prior relationship with the victim that has turned sour. Last year two American clinical psychologists. Dr Reid Meloy and Dr Shayna Gothard, published extensive research into the characteristics of stalkers. The vast majority are men, with an

average age of 35: most are unemployed, and 60 per cent have had previous psychiatric However, compared with other mentally disordered offenders they are usually better educated and of at least average intelligence - 25 per cent were above average. Their re-sourcefulness explains the fre-quent inability of victims to

elude caplure.

Meloy and Gothard uncovered chilling cases in which one stalker posed as a police officer to obtain an address from a motor records department, while another decoded unlisted phone numbers of his victim whenever she changed them by using tele-

phone installation equipment. If they are so smart, however, why do they ignore their



How often do stalkers physically assault their quarries?

rictims' furious and fearful rejections? They are socially isolated: only one in seven stalkers is married, many have never had a close relationship. Extremely sensitive to personal rejection, their anger at a rebuil often pro-vokes the pursuit, and may provide a defence against

But what about the cases where victim and stalker have never met at all? Many adolescents go through a brief stage of obsessional following when they pursue pop stars

this kind is usually both barmless and temporary. but psychiatrists are aware that a small group pursue those they idolise with an intensity which reflects a disturbed rationality rather than simple admiration. Some of these suffer from erotomania, a sudden conviction than an older person of high social status is in love with them.

The pressing issue for police is to assess which stalkers are likely to be vio-lent. Meloy and Gothard found that the best predictor of a stalker attacking bis



violence, as well as drug or alcohol abuse. Dr Robert Menzies and colleagues at the University of

Saskatchewan in Canada

strongly predicts violence. is not usually directdesire, but often those per crived to be standing in the way of the consummation of the relationship. A public

figure's partner is particularly

has delusions about just one

person he is tikely to be relatively harmless, but if he has delusions about many it

vulnerable to violent attack from stalkers of this kind The powerful emotional needs which underlie stalking explain why the purspen themselves often have a paradoxical sense of being con-trolled by their victim, and even claim they were the one trying to end the relationship.

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Irvine Welsh's Trainspotting has made heroin chic. Giles Coren discovers the depressing reality

Reformed heroin addict Eamon Doherty acted as a technical adviser on the film

EVEN THAT clever cookie the eternal riddle that keeps philosophers awake at night why do children have to have parents? Or, to put it in technical

philosophical jargon: why do some poor kids bave to have plonkers for parents them in Timberland shoes. Calvin Klein jeans and Ralph Lauren shirts before taking them off for lunch on Saturdays to a Covent Garden restaurant that isn't designed for two-year-olds?

Few two-year-olds are ready for sophistication. To a two-year-old, grissini are just rusks for the overbred, fried calamari tastes like Chicken McNuggets that have gone off, and fish fingers are a godsend. If God wanted two-year-olds to eat goujons of sole, he would have made all children French.

in France, or Italy, or China you see restaurant tables thronged with lunchers spanning three generations, with grandpa sitting calmly next to his grandson. But in England, when certain parents take their

children to posh restau-rants, it's as if they have stepped through Alice's looking glass into a topsyturvy world where children call the shots. Attention, chairs, cutlery, eyes, everything focuses on the child. Like solicitous courtiers re-



es to the world, parents quiz the child about his desires. "He wants a Coke," they then bark at the waiter, but double-check just in case. "A" Coke? You sure? What about apple juice instead,

YOU CAN always tell if these parents are with their first child, because they will ask the waitress to press the chef for a list of all ingredients, in every dish, for fear of polluting their child's body with preservatives or E-numbers.

These are the same parents who, on long plane journeys, lull their babies to sleep by humming African tribal lullabies that someone in their antenatal class told them was the holistically correct way of soothing their baby to sleep.

By the time their third child comes along, even a Malteser-flavoured pizza that has been on the floor more times than Frank Bruno is regarded as highly nutritious, while on aero-planes the baby is stuffed with high-dosage sleeping

potions the minute the "Fasien Seatbelt" sign goes on.
It's true that children are not the only ones who behave boorishly and prattle all day. MPs do it, and we even pay them to. And of course, there are many restaurant-friendly children who will yelp and hurl linguini only in certain emergency situations, such as (a) if they're hungry or (b) if they're thirsty.

Another problem with child lunchers is that they can't distinguish between "laughing at" and "laughing with", which is irritating when you want to make a specific point of laughing at-them in what you regard as a superior, adult sort of way. Also, kids never have any spicy gossip.

But many adults don't mind such company. They look at a rich, spoilt child squawking "I prefer the chins at Le Caprice", and all they see is someone who is probably easy to fleece at poker. But don't count on junior's generosity. How-ever big a kid's trust fund, somehow he never picks up the lunch tab.

Why drug addiction is not a style issue

based Welsh's 1993 cult novel, and made by the same team as last year's hippest film, Shallow Grave, follows a group of friends through the highs and lows of heroin addiction.

It involves violence, death and the betrayal of friends. So far, so standard. The difference with this film is that while it highlights the pain of heroin addiction, it also makes no attempt to hide the pleasure. And for that reason it is certain to cause controversy.

Already, it has resulted in heroin addiction becoming a style issue. In the magazines considered essential reading among those who think themselves young and hip, there is an uncomfortable element of "heroin chic". In this week's edition of The Face, for example, the star of the film, Ewan McGregor, is pictured in wasted fashion, with his physical appearance as an addict described as follows: To accurately portray junkie and Pot Noodle boy Mark Renton, McGregor has lost nearly two stone and shaved his head. He looks shit and looks great." It is hip, in other words, to be hooked. The piece is called Hey bey it's the junkies".

On another page, an article about the soundtrack to the film - which is expected to be a huge seller in its own right is headlined "Smacksonic!"

nd yet Time Out puts McGregor on its front cover, handsome and haunted, with the words, "Take the best orgasm you ever had. Multiply it by a thousand. You're still oowhere near it". Yes, they are lines from the book. but the book surrounds them with 300 pages of grim reality."
Time Out exploits only the sexappeal. Irvine Welsh never meant for this. And nor, one assumes, did the film-makers. Honesty, they insist, was a

primary concern. Their quest for verisimilitude took them to Glasgow, although the book is set in Edinburgh, because the drug scene there is closer to the way the Scottish capital the story is set. They even used a technical

adviser, reformed addict Earnon Doherty, a counsellor at Glasgow's Calton Athletic rehabilitation project. His story is anything but chic. He was a heroin addict for

seven years; his brother died of an overdose last April. "He started when he was 15,

about a year before me," says Eamon, who speaks with evangelical enthusiasm. "He would have been 33 now, but be knew what he was doing. It's no use complaining. I got into it myself through other drugs I had been doing since I was 12 or 13. I thought it was great at first, when I had the money. And then I started on selling drugs, and stealing from my family, and my standards went the same way as my stereo and all my other

Then I had a collapse just before my 18th birthday, and spent nine weeks in hospital with septicaemia. They had a priest in to give me the last rites. And when I recovered, I was back on it as soon as I got out. After that it was no fun anymore. I was just doing it to get normal. It was seven years before I stopped."

On the film set Earnon supervised the injection scenes into prosthetic arms — and helped the actors to tune their physical reactions to the drug. The film was so realistic it was frightening," says 24-year-old Danny Jackson, another former addict. "It took me right back to the days when I was on it. All of us from the club who saw it felt the same. The first feelings were that good, the reality of it was that bad."

amon says: "If I was making would end with to habilitation. But would go and see then no one would go and see it, would they? Nobody wants to go and see a man sitting in his room talking about his problems. When I spoke to The Face I had no idea they would do this. They've tried to write down my accent. It's all och aye the noo' as if I was thick or something.

They might think Ewan McGregor looks good," he says, "but in truth if he was really an addict he'd be physically, mentally and spiritually dead. You don't eat or wash. Your whole body breaks down - 82 per cent of jaggers [addicts who inject] here have



Ewen Bremner as Spud and Ewan McGregor as Mark Renton in Trainspotting

hepatitis C, and they say only I per cent are HIV positive. Well, they are transmined in the same way, and HIV has been around longer. So you can work it out for yourself."

The mood at the rehabilitation project is upbeat, but the stories are dismal. David Main. 24, played football for Celtic under-los and the Scottish youth team. Then he started on the drugs, missed a trial for the Celtic senior team. and it was all over. He is the same age as Ryan Giggs.

If their stories are sad, sadder still are the ones of those still dependent on heroin. An hour or so before addict Joey passed out, he had been selling copies of the Big Issue at Glasgow Central Sta-tion. Like 90 per cent of Glasgow's vendors, he sells the magazine to pay for his addiction.

From the station he walked Posil to buy his Dan Mac ("Dan Mac, man. Smack"). He had looked drawn and hollow at the station, a dozen miserably hard years older than his

31. We talk in a tenement block, where the windows are not glass but sheet sieel. Welcome to the real world. Joey says. "This is the bad-lands. I love it here. Dodging the bandits and all. That's what it's all about.

"But I've got my kit. And nobody can take it off me. I've got 43 stitches here in my face. 30 on the outside, 13 on the in. They gave it to me two months ago, but they didn't get my kit. And they didn't get it when they used a machete, or when they stabbed me here the shows the scar in his backl, or here funder his rib cage or here [in his abdomen]. I'm only nine stone, and I'm sick. But no one has ever got my

e delves into the washbag he carries with him evervwhere and pulls out a medical swab. They give you these at the needle exchange to clean your arm with before you inject, but we don't use them for that.

stash," Joey says.

"The kit's easier to get inside than it is outside. Your lumber comes in and you kiss her, she passes it into your mouth, you

They're full of alcohol, so they

burn great for cooking up your

kit. I couldn't bang it in my

arms. I can't use them for

another six months, because

I've got no veins left there. And

you've got to be careful to hit a

vein. Sometimes you think

you've hit one, when you

haven't, and the next day it

swells up like a golf ball. But I

cut out all my own abscesses

with a knife, I don't bother

with doctors." He shows off

the abscess scars on his legs,

and no one would mistake

them for the work of a doctor.

with my ma and da but most

of the time I was in this house

with a lot of 25 to 35-year-olds.

They were always well out of

it, and didn't interest me 100

much. And then someone said

'Give the wee man a bit'. They

but a tie round my arm, and I looked away while they gave

me a £2 bit. I was telling them

to hurry up and get it over

with, and they said 'u's done'.

Next thing I came round and I

was showing this 35-year-old

"It was about 1980 when I started jagging. I was living

swallow, and next morning you take it out. And when the book came out and we heard it was about jagging, everyone wanted it. There was a copy on my landing, and it was five months before I got a read. oey adds: "It's brilliant. Being an addict is just

bird. I thought 'this is it', and next night I was round there asking where to get more.

"I was soll at school at the

time, and soon everyone was

doing it, that's how it was

then. I worked as a roofer for a

time, but when things got really bad I couldn't do that

So I started stealing. never rob from my own kind,

never from the poor. I go up to

Bearsden and King's Park and

rob the TV people and the

footballers. I'm a regular in the prisons. My last stretch

was 18 months, but it's not so

anymore," Joey says.

like it says in the book. I'll never get off it now. My sister died of it two years ago, but my younger sister is 21 and has never smoked a joint. I'm so proud of her, because smack is back now in a bad way. "For a while the kids were just E-ing, but now they do

heroin to come down off the Ecstacy, and it's in all the clubs. They start smoking it, and they think they're not junkies. But when their tolerance gets up, they jag. And that's it. They'll all end like me. It's a sad existence, but I'm not looking for pity, I know what I'm doing. I'm too far gone for that. I'm a lost cause."

He went back to the stadon. and began his selling again. Another six or seven hours, another £25, another quartergram. That is how is life is for him, a cycle of scrounging and injecting, or the horrors of withdrawal. There is nothing

This, according to The Face. is "shit and great".

Is someone poaching your nest egg

At the moment, you probably keep your savings in a Bank or Building Society account. It makes sense. Especially if you need money for everyday expenses like bills or small purchases.

However, if you want to build up a lump sum over a few years you might well be losing out. You see, the chances are that whenever you earn interest the taxman will take 20% or more. This can make a really large hole in your savings.

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Philip Howard



The critics hate the stage version of Les Enfants du Paradis — I'll be there

espite the rude press, I must go to see Les Enfants du Paradis on stage. Usually when the criocs slink off to the pub during the last act, their excuse to the paying customers they are forcing to stand up for their exeunt is that they have to catch the early editions. But at the first night of Les Enfants, there was a stampede from the Barbican at the long-anticipated interval. And as they fled, the critics sprayed their most patronising insults and I-told-you-so's. and made excuses as feeble as having to make sure that the babysitter knew how to work the television zapper.

So one (perverse) reason for going to Les Enfants in the flesh is to see whether any

play can be as bad as the critics allege. Usually the Royal Shakespeare Company can turn even such second-division plays as The Taming of the Shrew or Peter Pan to gold. The company is always interesting, as is Simon Callow. Another reason is that Les Enfants really is one of the best movies ever made, even though everyone says that it is. So the stage version got a panning for lese-majeste from all who would put it in their top ten for solitary viewing on a desert island For those who play this game. Bicycle Thieves is in, of course. For the western, shall it be High Noon or The Unforgiven? For the Marxists, Duck Soup beats A Night at the Opera by a short pun. And for the classicalspectacular wild-card choice. Spartacus or Clash of the Titans? In the modern section, Strictly Ballroom or Babette's Feast?

Not even the oldest film reviewer can have seen even a twendeth of the films made this century. We amateurs, who talk about the cinema more than we go, are limited in our desert-island choices by the few films we have seen, and by our circumstances at the time - of sitting in the crowded dark so wrapped up that we tore our trousers on the seat in front. And for me. Les Enfants always comes top. Partly because it has the joy of coming liberation at the end of the war, like that other top ten film, Laurence Olivier's Henry V. For the first night of Les Enfants.

Arletty was in prison as a collaborator for having had a love affair with a Luftwaffe pilot. When reproached, she made the enigmatic reply: "My face belongs to the world, but the rest of me is my own."

ut the most interesting reason for Beetting bottom-cramp at the Barbican is because Les Enfants reverses the usual artistic progression. The luvvies are running backwards, uphill. The Darwinian evolution (or devolution) in the media is: first the book, then the stage play and then the

The novel works through words and the reader's imagination. The stage play works through words and the actor's art. The film works through images and the director's eye. talent," as John Gielgud said to the lighting cameraman oo the set of The Charge of the Light Brigade. The progression used to be, book, play, film - for example from Henry James's Washington Square to The Heiress in three quantum hops.

It is no surprise that the only art medium perfected by the 20th century has reversed the process. Penguin now publishes the book of the film, and it goes to the top of the bestseller lists. Sunset Boulevard and Grease may not be your flute of champagne, but both soupy offspring of the movies are packing them in. Stage musicals are being made on the backs of Animal Crackers and La Dolce Vita, which will test the scriptwriter, for the words are made irrelevant by the pictures. In fact the screenplay is far better for Les Enfants than for most films, because it was written by a proper writer, Jacques Prèvert. Paris est tout petit pour ceux qui s'aiment comme nous d'un si grand amour. The wild romance of, "It's so simple, love." And the actawr-laddy Lemaitre demonstrating why Shakespeare does not go in French: De l'économie. Horace, de l'économie misses the tug-of-war of Old Norse monosyllable with Romance tetrasyllable of "Thrift, Horario, thrift." I expect Les Enfants is better than the rattlesnakes' rattle. And anyway I must see whether Baptiste finds Garance in the carnival crowds at the end. Of



EARINY IBILAIIR (After Bacon)



ILATE IBILATIR

More socialist than thou

t is difficult to believe that it was only nine months ago that the great fight over Clause Four was won and lost. Indeed, some of my readers today will be at a loss to understand what the words mean, and many others, when asked what it was all about, would mutter something about Tony Blair and his followers, and leave it at that. And yet it is no exaggeration to say that if the Clause Four battle had been lost, so would have been the chances of a Labour government. Some clause, eh? Let's hear it just once again.

To secure for the workers by hand or by brain the full fruits of their industry and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange, and the best obtainable system of popular administration and control of each indostry and service.

And that might have scuppered the Labour Party? Well, try a dip in the headlines: "Clause Four is consigned to "Blair hails day of destiny".

Or, on the other side of the road.

Arthur Scargill denouncing every word

Blair seeks: "Following in the footsteps

of failure" "Scargill and the footsteps of failure", "Scargill calls for general strike", "Arthur Scargill relates the new realism' of the Labour leadership directly to the betrayals of the General Strike and the class collaboration of the 1920s".

Er . . . the 1920s, with or without betrayals, class collaboration and even a General Strike, were roughly threequarters of a century ago. Surely Arthur

Scargill has caught up this far?

No, he hasn't. But that is the great thing about Arthur, and the thing I greatly admire, and the thing I am now going to praise. The praise cannot be undiluted; he has made dreadful mistakes and worse than dreadful mistakes, but take out the darkness, the folly, the waste of words and actions, the quag-mires that he has repeatedly led his followers into and there is yet a grandeur even in his absurdities and pig-headednesses. You can see that grandeur very clearly if you put Benn beside Scargill. These men were both endrely on the same side at the same time and in the same way, yet one stirs the waters every time he speaks, while the other tries to make a figure. (My eye just then fell upon a tiny cutting: "Arthur Scargill was hissed and slowPig-headed though he may be, there is

a quixotic grandeur about Arthur

Scargill and his absurd new party

handclapped. Tony Benn sat sullen and silent, surrounded by political silent, s enemies.

And now - the greatest folly imaginable, yet heroic at the same time -Arthur has founded a new party. The Socialist Labour Party it is called, and good luck to it, a great deal of which he will need. Never mind that new parties, in our system, can never thrive unless over decades; never mind that he has now no following to speak of; never mind that he has been thrown out of the real Labour Party (which, I suppose, he will call the fraudulent Labour Party, while no doubt also calling Tony Blair

a fraudulent Labour Party leader); never come a figure of laughter - never mind all of this and more. Arthur Scargill will not be

lt is a remarkable story, is it not? Consider: when Ted Heath

faced up to the miners, he was beaten good and proper, but pretended that he wasn't. When Margaret Thatcher fought them and beat them, it was the end not only for Scargill but for the

whole world of coalmining.
But Arthur put his telescope to his blind eye, and — this is the most remarkable part of the story — most of his dwindling band was led by Arthur into quicksands and never seen again. though the dwindling band could see what was happening. Is that not a remarkable essay in loyalty? And doesn't it make Arthur much more

heroic, as well as much more daft? For not only has Arthur established a new party, he is trying it out. I am writing on the eve of a by-election; the election was necessary because of the death of Derek Enright, who had held the seat for many years. It is indeed one of the most solid seats in the country; at the last election. Derek Enright had a majority of 22,000, and the successor. Jon Trickett, can hardly fear his Tory

enemy, who polled fewer than 8,000 votes. But if the Tory is unlikely to dent the Labour armour, what chance has Arthur Scargill?

True, Arthur has not taken the plunge himself: one of his cohorts is standing in for Arthur. The Arthurian candidate is a lady. Brenda Nixon, who fights under the banner of Women Against Pit Closures - hardly a clarion to make the voters come running. She has other problems; there are a dozen or so other candidates, including the National Democrat candidate, the Green candidate, the UK Independence candidate, the Natural Law candidate, the Lib-

Dem, the Mark Thomas Friday Nights Channel 4 candidate and of course our dear old friend, the Lord Sutch Official Monster Raving Loony candidate.

Oh, and I nearly forgot: the Tory candidate.

Now, what chance has Brenda Nixon to carry off the prize? Yet there she goes, with her campaigners in hopes of carry-ing off the prize. And she is going into the fight with banners fluttering - what does that say about Arthur Scargill?

ell, one thing it says about Arthur Scargill is that he lives in the past, but knows that the past has gone by. When he is jeered at, and he now gets more jeers than cheers, he says: "They were the same words used against Keir Hardie in 1838 when be first stood as an independent socialist. Now everyone wants to claim Keir Hardie as their own. People should learn a bit of their history." Yes. they should. But the tiny remark I have quoted - "They were the same words used against Keir Hardie in 1888 . . . "also contained a few more words, which I left out; they were, after the name Keir Hardie, ". . . one of the founding fathers of the Labour Party . . ." For, you see, most

people today do not know who Keir Hardie is

You and I would think that coalmining was a trade no human being should be obliged to take; indeed, remember an article I wrote which finished with a prayer that it would be eliminated for ever very soon. Not so the miner; incredibly, he loved his trade, not least because of the tightly-knit communities. Then my prayer was answered, to the dismay of the miners. What does a superannuated coalminer do? Embroider pillow-cases? Draw the dole?

Even Arthur Scargill could not stop the blood-letting as more and more pits were closed; but at least he could denounce his enemies - those enemies who had given in and let Clause Four go: Now he is very close to making himself a fool; his new party will get a handful of votes — about the same number as Lord Sutch — and his new "party" will wither on the vine. What, I wonder, does be feel, or indeed say, about the pit which was taken over by a group of superannuated miners (nobody wanted it), who worked their butts off and not only made it the last pit in their area, but made a handsome profit too? Arthur speaks:

I feel a free man, like I've been let out of jail. There's a sense of relief. I feel almost conterant, to be campaigning for a new party. We are all singing from the same socialist hymn-sheet — and we're not worried about offending the spin-doctors!

But Arthur must know, even as he hides the truth from himself (he cannot hide it from others) that the very best he can hope for with his absurd Socialist Labour Party is a couple of deposits held, and even that is very unlikely.

Go back to the fight over Clause Four: if the man in the moon trained his telescope on the proceedings, he would be entirely nonphissed. He would see several camps, all on the same side of the battle, but with half of them fighting the other half. I dare not ask Arthur point-blank whether it is better to have a milksop Labour government or another Tory government: I say that I dare not ask him, not because he would hit me on the head with a rolling-pin, but because I fear he would say "Yes, it is better to have the Tories in again, than to change even one word — nay, one syllable — of Clause Four". And do you know what Mrs Brenda Nixon, the candidate for the SLP, says of the head of the Labour Party? She says, "I haven't an ounce of respect for Tony Blair".

jewellery incorporating names.

Mary Spillane, the image expert from Colour Me Beautiful, is as-

tonished: "It's a very adolescent

● The Duke of Edinburgh is not the only person to have had trou-

ble with his mobile phone. In a written answer in Hansard. Robin

Squire, the junior Minister for Education and Employment, said that ministers had twice had mob-

ile phones "cloned" by fraudsters.

And each time the phone in ques-

tion belonged to Robin Squire.

THE BEAUTIFUL shrine of Med-

jugorje in Bosnia-Herzegovina has

been visited by many eminent Roman Catholics, but this sum-mer it can expect three more in the

substantial and tuneful form of the

three tenors - all of whom are

Pavarotti, Domingo and Carre-

ras have agreed to sing there in

July to mark the J5th anniversary

of the first visions of the Virgin

Mary. The concert, to be transmit-

ted across the world by satellite,

will tell the story of the shrine

since 1981, when six children

claimed that the Virgin Mary had

High pitch

themselves Catholics.

appeared.

It ain't cricket, cobber

Simon Barnes

toasts the

whingeing Aussies

this is a one of those moments for feeling grateful to Australians. As the grim news of the bombings in Sri Lanka tempts us to despair, so the Australian cricketers cheer us with a comic sub-plot. This is nothing less than Shakespearean: the drunken porter, the gravediggers, the Australian cricketers. The single-mindedness with which each set of characters follows its own concerns, unaware of the priorities of a greater world, grants a welcome moment of relief to us all.

In Colombo, the death toll is horrific. the number of the wounded beyond easy comprehension, but the Aussies respond: what about our cricketers? The Australian Cricket Board goes into a huddle early next week for a good old grumble. They are considering forfeit-ing their World Cup match in Sri Lanka, which should take place on February 17. That would mean donating the points

to the opposition, and it's the sort of idea they want well ventilated; because they want the world to know that, well, it just isn't right. Compare and contrast with the Zimbabwean team manager. Denis Streak, on hearing the news it is of the bombings. Asked if his team would now consider withdrawing, he said: "We've thought about it. But we come from a country that knows about war and we're not going to worry about a few bombs."

The Australians reject any such blithe acceptance of life's turbulence. Life. after all, shouldn't be like it was in Colombo yesterday. How many times have I heard an Australian explain "Irs not fehinh"? This search for the Protean quality of fairness is something of a national characteristic, but in sport the gold of fairness becomes transmuted, by a sort of reverse alchemy, into the base metal of whingeing.

was the Australians who first called the settlers from England whingeing Poms. It became accepted myth that Poms always complained and seldom washed. How can you tell that a 747 landing at Sydney is from London? It carries on whining after the jets have been switched off. But this eternal complaint about the Poms is itself a kind of whinge. And when one turns to sport and sets coherent thought aside, the scope for whingeing is unending - and Australians, it must be said, are masters.

Their cricketers are up to their necks in a scandal with Pakistan, in which they allege that Salim Malik, then Pakistani captam, tried to bribe them to lose a Test match. The Aussies now face death threats on their return to Pakistan. Long before the Sri Lankan bombing

the Australian board said that any player who felt he would be in danger at chithe World Cup, which will be held all over the sub-continent, was free to withdraw without penalty.

Death threats, however, occupy the Australian mind only when they tear themselves away from the awkward right arm of Muttiah Muralitharan. Australian umpires believe that this Sri Lankan slow bowler gives extra zest to his leg-break by throwing the ball which is illegal, of course. Yet legal or not. Muralifharan is hardly the world's most ferocious bowler. Bringing the might of cricket law to bear on the rather hapless young fellow is a sledgehammer and nut situation. But it's not fehhhhh.

you see Meanwhile, David Campese, the Ausralian rugby player — a man touched by greatness — has been whingeing on about the England rugby team. Again. "English players can't make decisions when the pressure's on. Rob Andrew has gone, but nothing has changed." This crosses the boundary from rival-baiting to whingeing, especially when you recall that the last time England played Australia at rugby union, it was the quarter-final of the World Cup and England won — thanks to a last-minute drop goal from Rob Andrew.

ustralian whingeing is an ancient tradition. The longest whinge in sporting history goes back to 1932-33, when Douglas Jardine captained England in Australia at cricket in the control of what will be remembered forever as the Bodyline series. Today, even the most fastidious would not object to the bowling. Only two batsmen were injured in the entire series: that can

happen in one day in a modern game.

But physical assault was not the real issue. The issue was planning and the plan's accurate, professional execution. England sought to milify the opposidon's greatest weapon, the genius of Don Bradman, it was not the bowling of Harold Larwood that was vicious: it was the thinking of Jardine.

This signalled the end of sport as the world then knew it. Sport was no longer fun: not at the highest level. It was instead a fierce and terrible drama which stripped bare the nature of its participants. It destroyed some and gave others impossible glory. Sport became the most brutal examination of character.

Modern sport is often enthralling, often profoundly satisfying. But it is seldom much fun: not for the participants, anyway. It matters too much for that. So perhaps the Aussies were right to whinge - are right to carry on whingeing.

True whingeing is nostalgia for a world that never existed: a world when everything was fun and everything was fair. In every complaint, from the Colombo cri de coeur to the Campes. rent-a-whinge, there is a yearning for a better world. Life shouldn't be like this. P·H·S it's not fehhhh. And in the end, there is a kind of nobility in it.

Poor John

A SENSITIVE chap, John Major. The latest spate of poisonous stories about a new chasm between himself and his Chancellor

has jangled a raw nerve.
On Wednesday, he invited a dozen MPs to lunch at Downing Street - trusted souls, mostly, although there were one or two licensed dissenters. And without a by-your-leave, he burst into a torrent of denial. He insisted that he and Kenneth Clarke stood foursquare together (Winnie-the-Pooh and Piglet come to mind) over Europe and the economy.

"It was extraordinary," says one of the hunchers. "Nobody was even suggesting there was anything in the stories. He just came out with it, got it off his chest."

The assembled audience clucked and nodded sagely as they listened to his bafflement and surprise at the appalling suggestions of a rift. But as they left they were in broad agreement - the PM doth protest too much.

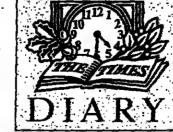
• The Princess of Wales is still discussing the Queen's letter urg-ing her to divorce. Perhaps she is stalling until after a two-day conference at the Park Lane Hotel next month before making a

decision. One of the organisers is her solicitor, Mishcon de Reva. And the subject? "Big Money and International Divorce".

Longueurs

THE GUEST of honour at the opening night of Simon Callow's Interminable new play, Les En-fants du Paradis, was Patricia Quinn. Callow has dedicated the work to her late husband. Sir Robert Stephens.





Though delighted by the dedication, this put her in a tricky position - she had to sit through the entire four-hour work. "It's a very difficult play to stage," she says with tact. "There are 60 scenes in it. The real trouble is that it's a film. not a play."

Adrian Noble, the RSC's artistic

director, admitted yesterday that Callow "could perhaps have cut it a bit more"; and even the star turn in the play, Joseph Fiennes (brother of Raiph), said the length of the play made for difficulties. "I think he could have been a bit more ruthless," he said. "It's a bit of a problem, the logistics of getting home after the show."

Vic and Bert

THE LATEST venue for romantic encounters in London is the Victoria and Albert Museum on Wed-

nesday nights. Although the museum rejects any suggestion of a "singles' night", it is encouraging lonely hearts to dally in its vaults. The museum reports that as a result of its Friends' evenings on

Wednesdays, one couple are married and many others are courting. Now it has opened up evening romance to the general public. Last Wednesday night, the place hummed with young bucks. Ad-vertisements proclaiming the ro-

mantic potential have been running in the personal columns of Time Out, the London listings magazine. And a Valentine's Day seminar on kissing in art will add to the atmosphere. "It's a friendly atmosphere and people feel en-couraged to talk to each other," explains the museum.

Heart attack

LADY ROMSEY, the elegant wife of Earl Mountbatten's grandson now identified as the "horsey" voice whinnying away for 17 minutes to the Duke of Edinburgh on his mobile phone, has a less than traditional taste in jewellery.

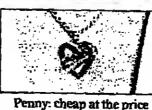
Her title and her fine hairband have not prevented her from ac-quiring the kind of personalised pendant which even Gerald Ratner might balk at. On a chain around her neck nestles a heart with the letters of her name. Pen-





equivalent of a gold medallion on a hairy chest.

was briefly linked romantically to Prince Charles in 1975, and he is known to have a penchant for



ny, picked out on it - the female

The former Penny Eastwood



cricke $copp^{\ell_1}$ elittin Range

SPANISH MALPRACTICE

A bad decison for Iberia, Spain and Europe

The EU Transport Commissioner, Neil Kinnock, was asked to rule this week on whether Spain should be allowed to break its promise to its partners and pump £440 million into its bloated national airline, Iberia. Presented with an opportunity to fight for a level runway for Europe's airlines, Mr Kinnock flinched and found excuses to let Spain bend the rules. Iberia, on its record of monumental incompetence and waste, does not deserve to survive under its present ownership. Since the Greek, Portuguese. Belgian and Irish airlines are queueing up for extra aid which they too promised they would not need, this decision is a grim precedent - as politically feeble as it is economically monstrous.

Those who defend the European Commission's "pragmatism" rest their case on two arguments: that Iberia has been given less money than it requested and on specific restrictive conditions which are held to mean that the proposed investment is identical to a private sector decision. This is backed by another, unstated, argument which holds that the Commission, battered by recent unpopularity, should not force a high-profile nationalised company into sale or bankruptcy while every politician from Stockholm to Seville is urging action to

hing down the continent's dole queues. The Commission, which wields huge powers against monopolies and the abuse of government subsidies to private businesses. is making a grievous error. The EU treaty encourages the commissioners to balance legal, commercial and political factors in their state aid and competition decisions. But to grant most of Iberia's request is both against the treaty's spirit and against the interests of Europe's air travellers. Any prospect of lower fares fades yet further.

Nor does this week's decision in Brussels give any real help to the Iberia employees whose jobs have been "protected". Threeand-a-half-thousand of them will lose their jobs anyway during the next two years, and the remainder will have to wait even longer for the arrival of a disciplined and competitive management which can truly secure jobs by making the airline competitive in the global market. Meanwhile, the rest of the Spanish economy suffers from the diversion of capital by the Government into a plainly inefficient enterprise.

Last year British Airways made a profit of E30I million without state subsidy. Iberia made a pre-tax loss of £269 million. According to Mr Kinnock, the principle of phasing out airline subsidies should give way to the "market investor principle". This "principle", which has put down sturdy roots in European law, allows state aid to a company if the State is behaving as a private-sector investor would. But, if the Spanish Government's investment in Iberia were a sound bet, the state holding company would not need to be making it. The private-sector market would provide investors and the Government could withdraw. Iberia is a poor investment because it is too badly run to make money for its investors.

British Airways has already begun legal action against the Commission for its supine permission to the French government to put £2.3 billion into Air France, currently losing around £50 million a month. Given the Commission's once-firm determination not to waste any more money on Iberia, British Airways should have strong arguments to mount a parallel legal challenge. The Commission's collective feebleness in the face of Spanish blackmail also raises a wider point about its powers under the EU treaty. Powers to police state subsidies are among the strongest that the Commission has. Why should national governments grant it any increased powers at this year's review of the Maastricht treaty when existing powers are

used in such an anti-European way?

DEGREE QUALITY

Fees may be the future, but not at a flat rate

University vice-chancellors meet today to decide if they should end Britain's tradition of free access to higher education. Support seems solid for a proposal to charge £300 as the price of a place at university. The proposal is crude but it has one merit it focuses attention on the need for further reform in academia to improve financing."
defend standards and allow liberal learning to flourish in our linest institutions.

The flat-rate fee is a tactic adopted to bully. the Government into reversing the spending. pointed by a budget that cut higher educatixth expenditure by 7 per cent, and envisaged a further 6 per cent cut in 1997-98, the vicechancellors have counter-attacked. They hope the prospect of a hefty bill arriving at thousands of middle-class homes next September will be enough to force a government

The Government may hope that some of the vice-chancellors will prove fainthearts. Less prestigious universities may calculate that a levy will deter applicants and that any fall in admissions will mean large losses. which an extra £300 from each remaining new student will not offset. The Government may also judge that even if the vicechancellors hang together they cannot all rely on their own governing bodies for support. As any student of C.P. Snow knows, it is a rare head of an academic institution who is truly Master in his own House. The Education Secretary may refuse to bend, knowing that it will be in the interests of some universities to break. But relying on the willingness of weaker brethren to abandon the levy will not be enough.

The current funding troubles are only the most obvious symptom of a much deeper malaise. The Government has congratulated itself on a rapid expansion of student numbers - as though academic productiv-

ity were an end in itself. But the expansion seems to have been accompanied by a decline in standards and erosion of independence.

Universities have relaxed entrance requirements in order to accept ever more students, and extra income direct from the Government. There is little incentive to be selective: thus, even though entrance num-bers increase, so too does the proportion of those dropping out. Worse still, there is worrying evidence that students now face far gent final examinations. As numbers overall have gone up, so too have the numbers of students who secure first-class degrees. The proportion of firsts has remained constant over the last four years despite a 65 per cent increase in undergraduate numbers. It seems, at best, curious that so many new students should reach a level once the preserve of a genuine elite.

Reversing the cuts might not make universities more choosy, simply more greedy. The most appropriate answer is matching the universities' power to select with a mechanism to make students more discriminating. Harsh Economics may determine student numbers, but Logic should not be neglected. Universities should be encouraged to contemplate top-up tuition fees, but rather than a flat rate these should reflect the quality of the qualification on offer. Of course students from poorer families should be exempt, and many institutions should survive without having to charge, but those from comfortable families should pay if they want excellence. That would remove the need for the better universities to expand needlessly and allow them to maintain their traditional methods of teaching in tutorials or seminars. Reform before the next election is unlikely, but if higher education is to combine the virtues of access and excellence. there must be open minds on entrance fees.

YOUNG MASTERS

Music comes early: painting must wait

An unknown self-portrait by Francis Bacon, painted when he was only 21, has just been found in a private collection of paintings. As Richard Cork writes on our Arts pages today, this is a significant discovery: Bacon was a fussy fellow, whose dislike of his own youthful work drove him to destroy much that he painted before his Three Studies for Figures at the Base of a Crucificion.

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A survivor from those massacres, the selfportrait ought to teach us a little about this tortured artist as a young man. But how much, on its own, can it teach us? As a picture, it is neither original nor attractive, but rather an awkward pastiche of the modes of its time. It has none of the "reek of human blood smiling our" - to use Bacon's own favourite line from Aeschylus - that one has come to associate with the painter's familiar oeuvre. If this self-portrait is typical of his earlier work, then the later Bacon is

clearly finer art. This should not surprise us. Painters, like most composers of music, novelists and judges, change with age. And they usually get better. Take Cézanne, a major exhibition of hose work begins next week at the Tate Gallery in London. His early work is dreary. dark and morbid, and unduly concerned with violence. As a painter he found his language only much later in life, with his technique of constructing volume out of brush

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strokes. Mondrian changed too - and radically -moving with time from sweet Dutch landscapes to brightly coloured grids and rectangles.

Very occasionally, painters get worse with age. André Derain is an example. A fauve and close friend of Matisse in the latter's wildest phase - he was a Young Turk who turned out to be an old bore, ending his artistic days as a Neo-Classical reactionary. Such change in individual style is most easily discerned in art's modern era: for in the days of the Renaissance a young artist was often merely a copyist in the school of a master. A painter's early style declared itself only exceptionally, such as in Leonardo's angel in the painting by Verrocchio.

Painters take longer to mature than composers of music do: and there is more to this assertion than just the example of Mozart. The Viennese prodigy may have composed seven symphonies by the time he was 10 years old — and six operas by his fif-teenth year, including Mitridate — but there are others too, including Mendelssohn, whose genius shone earlier than that of any serious painter. Francis Bacon took some while to blossom - if that is the right word to describe paintings such as his anguished, screaming Popes. In that, he was only of his artistic type. The best painters, like their counterparts in wine, mature only with age.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Judgment on a pay rise for MPs From Mr Norris McWhirter

Sir. Twice before MPs have voted to more than double their salaries (letters and leading article, February I).

In 1954, after a 17-year standstill, they raised their basic pay from £600 to £1,250; while in 1964, after a nine-year standstill, they gave themselves a raise to £3,250. The taxpayer now, however, is presented with the spectre

of a doubling from their 1995 raise.

The electorate of taxpayers and others ultimately dictate whether a parliamentary candidate receives any salary at all. It is entitled to recall how each MP has regarded his custodian-ship of our parliamentary, and hence national, sovereignty. We had long re-garded the rule of law as dependent upon being governed by consent - ie, rule by an administration that could

On May 20, 1993, our MPs collectively carried the third reading of the Maastricht Bill by 292 to 112. Why. now that they have given away the above rights to overseas institutions that are unsackable, should they expect to double their remuneration? They have diminished themselves to regional, off-shore councillors in a chamber which some of them plan will take on the ambience of a

If there were any logic or justice, un-less they have a change of heart and of spirit, they ought, as in the national crisis of 1931, to vote themselves a pay

Yours faithfully. NORRIS McWHIRTER (Chairman). The Freedom Association. 35 Westminster Bridge Road, SEL January 30.

From Lord Mayhew

Sir. I am not a hardship case, and am not complaining; but when I left the House of Commons in 1974, my indexlinked pension, based on 27 years' service fincluding five years as a minis-ter) in 1980, was £4,034 (payable from 1980). It is now £10,118.

I was astonished when MPs recently voted themselves pension increases for their service before 1983, but withheld the increase from former members who had served the same years and paid the same pensions contribu-

. I think the less MPs have to do with their emoluments, the better.

Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER MAYHEW, House of Lords. January 31.

From Sir Laurie Magnus Sir. Many people of quality decide to

keep out of politics simply because it does not pay well enough. Prosperity for self and family, which can only be earned elsewhere, comes first. Some will always say that public

service should be more important than money. They echo predominantly Conservative thinkers of the 19th century who felt that MPs should not be paid at all. But let.us not lose the chance to

attract greater quality into public life by restricting salaries. If any MP does not wish to accept a pay rise, he or she can always return it to the Paymaster General.

Yours faithfully. LAURIE MAGNUS. Flat 8, 44 Lower Sloane Street, SWI. February 1.

From Mr Peter Le Cheminant

Sir, It is to be hoped that the implementation of any increase in the pay of MPs which results from the present clamour is deferred until after the next election. Otherwise the main impact will be to boost the pensions of the substantial oumber of present MPs who will not return to the House next time round.

Yours etc. PETER Le CHEMINANT. 23 Weylea Avenue. Burpham, Guildford, Surrey. January 31.

From Dr P. J. Fabricius

Sir. The National Health Service has dy precedent to solve the question of MPs' pay. A realistic salary should be set for those MPs who spend the whole of their time working for Parliament. Every MP should be required to declare in confidence all other sources of earned moome.

Those who earn more than 10 per cent of their parliamentary salary from other sources should forfeit an appropriate proportion of the parliamentary salary, as do maximum part-time NHS consultants, despite being required still to devote "substantially the whole of their time; to the NHS.

I have the honour to remain, Sir, your obedient servant, P.J. FABRICIUS,

3 Rowhills Close, Farnham, Surrey. January 31.

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark Sir. The view that many senior MPs. who should know better, put around that if you paid MPs twice as much you would get better MPs is, at the kindest, nonsense. The opposite in my view is the case all you will end up with is many more young MPs who have done nothing with their lives except be professional.

Your obedient servant, ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK. 124 Lady Byron Lane, Knowie, Solibull, West Midlands. February 1.

The need for a long-term solution to university funding

From the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Buckingham

Sir, Simon Jenkins ("Dons must do or die", January 31) hits the nail on the head.

In the last 50 years or so our universities have established a high reputation internationally and have generally provided a high-quality education. At last, people are realising that this reputation is under threat. Student numbers have increased dramatically whilst the unit of funding for teaching each student has been cut by 28 per

cent over the last six years. We cannot reverse this situation by merely tinkering with the funding system: it needs a totally fresh approach and a new financial mechanism. The only way to break through the present impasse is for students to pay a share of tuition costs.

Students should be supported by some kind of income-contingent loan scheme, the level and timespan of repayment being dependent on the level of earnings. Other measures would have to be taken to protect the less well off: the student might have a voucher provided by the State giving a basic sum of taxpayers' money, and would supplement this with a direct payment backed, perhaps, by a loan.

In this way more resources will be made available to improve the quality of service, the student can choose the university which most suits his interests and the resulting mechanism would free universities substantially from the present bureaucratic system of government funding.

Universities should then move to charging full-cost fees, the level of which will vary according to the nature and quality of the course. Centres of academic excellence in different fields will emerge and will charge higher fees. Demand will begin to be market-led.

Much may be learnt from our experiences at Buckingham. We are the only independent university in Britain with no direct taxpayers' support. Our fees reflect the costs of providing a high-quality service and personal attention. After 20 years of existence we are in a position to encourage other universities to secure greater independence and to pursue a new funding system for the next century.

Yours faithfully. RICHARD LUCE. Vice-Chancellor, The University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 IEG. February 1.

From Mr Robert Jackson, MP for Wantage (Conservative)

Sir, The universities should go ahead with their proposed £300 "registration" or "quality maintenance" charge (report, January 30), but they would be well advised to describe it simply as a "fee" and to think of it as initiating a

long-term strategy.
So long as the universities' move looks like a calculated pre-election political manoeuvre the Government is entitled to be irritated, and the neces-sary dialogue between it and the universities about this matter will not work as it should. (Incidentally, neither the universities nor the Government should over-estimate the electoral effects of what the universities are contemplating: the middle-class electorate is more realistic than either perhaps credits.)

The financial problem to which the proposed fee is a solution is a longterm one which will not go away with a change of government: the vice-chancellors should pay attention to what Labour is saying about taxes. Taxpayers simply cannot afford to give a university education to 30 per cent of our young people of the style which it provided for only 10 per cent of them little more than a decade ago.

To work as a long-term policy the private fee needs to be backed up by legislation to extend the student loans scheme to enable it to be used to advance money for fees. This is why the universities need to talk seriously to the Government, and the Government should listen.

Meanwhile those die-hards among the vice-chancellors who think that £300 a year will choke off demand from potential students should recall that the introduction of student loans coincided with an explosion of demand for higher education. There is also something odd about the idea that a university education might be worthless to a student at a price above £0. It might be asked, anyway, whether such a student would be sufficiently motivated to benefit from a university course.

ROBERT JACKSON, House of Commons. January 31.

From Professor Sir Graham Hills

Sir, The vice-chancellors may be unwise to settle for the stop-gap palliative of top-up fees before securing a better basis for their long-term securi-ty. At the heart of the matter is the lack of any serious consideration of the true costs and true benefits of higher

Who are the customers? Who are the beneficiaries? Should all the beneficiaries contribute to the cost? Is the Government a provider, a customer or a regulator?

Past inquiries have led to the conclusion that government and students are both customers, and that they need to negotiate economic prices with their suppliers, the universities. That is the way to common sense, a proper set of values, quality control, diversity, and an economic basis for extending the scope of higher education.

Yours faithfully, GRAHAM HILLS, Sunnyside of Threepwood, Laigh Threepwood, Beith, Ayrshire. January 30.

Bishops' residences

Room for savings on back pain bill

From Professor Michael Rosen and Professor G. Waddell

Sir, Backache is a 20th-century healthcare disaster and there is now a revolution in back care. Less than one in 500 (0.2 per cent) of back problems need surgery: even slipped discs usu-ally get better without an operation.

As your excellent series of articles on "Beating back pain" (January 22 and 23) makes clear, doctors are beginning to accept that bed rest is bad. With simple measures to control the in, and staying active, back

will usually get better. · If more help is needed to control the pain, then the patient should see a physiotherapist, osteopath or chiropractor for manipulation.

However, some people do not get better and need more help. Time is then vital: once off work for six months, there is only a 50 per cent chance of returning to work. At present, patients may wait months for surgical consultations and high-tech investigations, only to be told that A report last year by the Clinical Standards Advisory Group (CSAG)

recommended that resources should be shifted to primary care in order to provide early active management and rehabilitation. There is strong scientific evidence for such an approach, and the group's recommendations were supported by the Government, but little is being done to implement our Backache is now costing the UK £6

billion a year; and there is potential for considerable savings. Most NHS services and treatment for back pain are no longer acceptable. There is an urgent need for action, in the form of education and pilot studies, to develop a more effective service.

MICHAEL ROSEN (Chairman, Clinical Standards Advisory Group), GORDON WADDELL (Orthopaedic surgeon: member, CSAG), 45 Hollybush Road, Cardiff. January 29.

The most recent recurrence was on

February II, 1995, when we were play-

ing a tape of Vivaldi's Four Seasons.

The smell arose shortly after the

music started and lasted until a crew

from a cable TV company arrived to

do some filming about Julia and the

freak happening. They had requested

the music for background purposes

and we were testing prior to their

We would dearly love a rational ex-

planation. For the record, it is not the

electric lampholders and not the

(Chairman, Council of Management),

The Julia Margaret Cameron Trust.

Dimbola Lodge, Terrace Lane, Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight.

From Mr S. R. Lancelyn Green

Sir. It's a deal! I will gladly pay £5 for each complete opera I watch on televi-

sion if Mr Amos (letter, January 30;

see also letters. January 27) will pay £5

for each snooker game he watches.

My annual bill will be about £15 or

up to £25 in a good year. I wonder what his will be?

S. R. LANCELYN GREEN.

From Miss Margaret Yates

Bebington, Wirral, Merseyside.

Sir, I am very happy to pay £12 a month to Cable London, for its enter-

prising Performance channel offering

a nightly selection of opera, ballet, classical music and jazz. As I can no

longer afford opera house prices, even

in the gods, and, like many other el-

derly people, no longer wish to go out

at night, I consider it excellent value.

27 The Glade, Winchmore Hill, N21.

Pay as you view

Thar's fair isn't it?

Yours faithfully.

Poulton Hall,

Yours sincerely.

January 30.

MARGARET YATES.

Poulton Lancelyn,

drains.

Yours sincerely.

RON SMITH

January 24.

Haunting smell

From Mr Ron Smith

Sir, Mr B. J. Francis suggests (letter, January 17) that the ghostly smell identified by visitors to this house, which was once Julia Margaret Cameron's home, may somehow be associated with Julia's use of the chemicals for her photography. I myself am not of that opinion; several of us who have experienced the smell (report, January 9) describe it as similar to that of rotting herrings.

The smell only recurs when classical music is played. The ante-room where it occurs most strongly is adjacent to the large entrance foyer where Julia and her guests danced and enjoyed her soirces; it has red quarries on the floor and heavily plastered brick walls with no cracks.

Wolves in the wild From Mr Roger Panaman

Sir, As part of our project to reintro-duce wolves to the Scottish High-

lands, the Highland Wolf Fund, we often need to dispel the myth that wolves need forests ("Scotland's company of wolves", Weekend, January

They live in all kinds of habitat except tropical rain forest and the most arid desert; they even live in the We do not need to wait for reforesta-

tion before we can restore wolves to the Highlands, but we do acknowledge that some people's negative perceptions must change. Fortunately, a public reappraisal of

wolves is slowly coming about as the result of research on wolf behaviour and ecology. Yours sincerely ROGER PANAMAN.

Carnivore Wildlife Trust, 35 Church Street, Kidlington, Oxford.

Business letters, page 25

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046.

From Mr William E. Bridge there is no surgical problem. Sir, The letter from the Bishop of Exe-

ter (January 30; see also letters, January 18) highlights the terrible waste that such expensive episcopal residences represent. Like any other diocese Exeter must

have many underused church buildings and halls which would be quite suitable for the business, entertainment and hospitality that he outlined.

Yours sincerely. WILLIAM E. BRIDGE, 175 Crofton Road, Orpington, Kent.

Lottery and charities

From Mr Robert Ashby

Sir. In addition to lottery grants for which charities must apply (letters, January 19, 29), perhaps Camelot should hold an Ernie-style weekly draw of a charity registration number? The winning charity might be awarded £10,000 to its core fund, taken from Camelot's profit.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT ASHBY (Executive director). British Humanist Association. 47 Theobald's Road, WCI.

Here today . . .

From Mr Winston Graham Sir, Last Friday, January 26. a "snow shower" lasting seven hours, dumped at least six inches of snow on this area of Sussex. Temperature at the time was 25F. Saturday (temp 27F max), in spite of more light snow early, the snow began to go. By Sunday at 2pm (temp 32F max) it was almost gone. No dripping from the roofs; minimal rise of level in greenhouse water butt; wind cold but not sufficient to blow

snow away. So somehow the snow did not melt: it evaporated. How?

Yours etc. WINSTON GRAHAM, Abbotswood House. Buxted, East Sussex. February 1.

Calling all agents From Mr Noël Johnson

Sir, I note with interest the item in today's issue about the revival of Dick Barton. Special Agent and the announcement of some casting. It would have been courteous if the BBC had at least given me first refusal of the nart.

1 am. Sir, your obedient servant, NOEL JOHNSON. (The original Dick Barton Special Agent. 1946-49). 4 Britway Court, Britway Road, Dinas Powys, South Glamorgan. January 29.

Lost in translation?

From Dr Robert M. Bruce-Chwatt

Sir, The caption to the portrait on your back page today of a "cow" marconed by flash floods in southern France appears to be bull.

Yours faithfully, ROBERT BRUCE-CHWATT. York Lodge, I York Road, Richmond, Surrey. January 31.

Sports letters, page 37



COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM, NORFOLK February I: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh were represented by the Lord Somerleyton (Master of the Horse) at the Memorial Service for the Viscount Boyne (Lord in Waiting and He Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire) which was held in SI Laurence's Church, Ludlow, this

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Gerald Ward. Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, and The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester were represented by Major Nicholas Barne. The Duke of Kent was repre-

sented by I Ir Andrew Palmer.
Princess Alexandra, the Hon Lady Ogilvy was represented by Mrs Peter Afia. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** February 1: The Princess Royal this morning departed Sea Lion Island for Fox Bay East where Her Royal Highness attended a Smoko

in the Community Centre with West Falkland residents. The Princess Royal afterwards departed Fox Bay for Hill Cove and attended a Luncheoo with other West Falkland residents. Her Royal Highness this after-

attended a Smoko at Port Howard

Today's royal

engagements

The Princess Royal this evening attended the Falkland Island Government Reception at the Town Hall, Stanley, followed by a Legislature Dinner at Malvina House Hotel

ST JAMES'S PALACE St JAMESS PALACE
February I: The Prince of Wales,
Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Regiment of Wales, received Lieutenant
Colonel Peter Davies upon
relinquishing his appointment as
Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, and Lieutenant Colonel Robert Aitken upon assuming the

KENSINGTON PALACE February I: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Bridsh Lung Foundation, this evening attended a Gala Performance of La Bohème at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7. YORK HOUSE

February 1: The Duke of Kent, President, this evening attended the Engineering Council's Unifica-tion Launch dinner, at the Institution of Civil Engineers, Great George Street, London SWI.

The Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint Mr Michael Jephson to be a Serjeant-at-Arms to Her Majesty in succession to Mr David Walker.

The Duke of Kent, as president, will attend the Engineering Council forum at Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre at 10.00. Today's events The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

Premium Bonds The El million prize in the Prewas won with bond number 34LS 818724. The winner, who lives in Co Antrim, has a holding of £5,000.

Luncheon

HM Government Mr Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs, was the
host at a function given by Her
Majesty's Government yesterday
at I Carlton Gardens in honour of
Mr Shimon Peres, Prime Minister
of Israel of Israel

Reception

HM Government Mr John M. Taylor, Par-liamentary Under Secretary of State for Competition and Consumer Affairs, was the host yes-terday at a reception given by Her

Dinners

Fruiterers' Company Mr MJ. Tanguy, Master of the Fruiterers Company, assisted by the Wardens, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Plaisterer's Hall. During the evening he presented the Ridley Silver Medal to Dr J.D. Quinlan for distinguished services to fruit growing. Sir Graham Dorey, Bai-liff of Guernsey, Lord Justice Staughton and Mr D.G. Hope-Mason also spoke.

Constructors Company
Mr Anthony Appleton, Master of
the Constructors Company, presented the David Tong award to Mr John Leighton-Cox at the

annual dinner held last night at Painters' Hall. The Forces Link Cup Edward Willmott, Honorary Colo nel of the 101 Regiment. Dr Christopher Sketchiev also spoke.

The Fruiterers' Company

The following have been elected officers of the Pruiterers' Company for the ensuing year: Master: Mr M J Tanguy. Upper Warden: Mr D Tullett, and Renter

Warden: Mr A E Redsell.

Birthdays today

Mr Roger Brooke, chairman Candover Investments, 65; Mr Ken Bruce, broadcaster, 45; Sir Gordon Bryce, former Chief Justice of the Bahamas, 83; the Earl of Clarendon, 63; Dr Macdonald Critchley, neurologist, 96; Mr Andrew Davis, conductor, 52; the Rev Dr Victor de Waal, former Dean of Canterbury, 67; Sir Robert Doug-las. founder Douglas Group of Companies, 97; Lord Eatwell, 51; Mr Abba Eban, Israeli politician, 81: Dr Tony Flower, economist, 45: Sir Norman Powler, MP, 58: M Valery Giscard d'Estaing, former President of France, 70: Mr President of France, no real Hughie Green, broadcaster, 76: Mr H.V. Hughes, former Prin-cipal, Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 70: Mr David Jason, actor, 56; Mr David Jones, chief executive, Next, 53; Sir Chips Keswick, chairman, Hambros Bank, 56; Dame Alix Meynell former civil servant, 93; Miss

Royal Warrant Holders

Elaine Stritch, actress, 69.

Colonel Christopher Pickup has been appointed Secretary of the Royal Warram Holders Association in succession to Commande Hugh Faulkner who has retired.

Appointment

Majesty's Government at Lan-caster House to mark the 20th from mid-May in succession to Mr Michael Hone who will be retiring Mr Jim McCulloch has been

of Manchester, 1953-69, left estate valued at £97,163 net. Ivy Mary MacFie, of Ely. Cambridgeshire, left estate valued at £1,322,588 net. at £1.372,588 net.

She left her effects and such money as can be transferred on ber death without locuring inheritance may be her aephew Robert P. Starling, other personal legacies totally £16,700. £10,000 each to the British Red Cross Society. British Heart Foundation, Cancer Rescurch Campaign, RNIB. Arthritis and Ricumatism Council and British Sallors Society. £1000 each to 5t Leonard's Church, Little Downham, and All Saints' Church. Little Downham, and All Saints' Church, is ves. £500 to \$t ives Golf Club, and the residue to her trustes for charilles la Eagland and Wales.

Latest wills

£1,014,057 net.

Cambridge, classical scholar and author, left estate valued at

Mr Arthur Sidney Thorn, of London SW17, left estate valued at

Lista, 387 net.

He left 165,000 to personal legaces, 225,000 to St Catherine's Hospica, Canviey, 120,000 to the RN1 and the restole to the Canoer Research Campaign.

Mr John Raymond Bargetto, of East Finchley, London N2, left estate valued at £3,119,337 net. He left £525,000 and certain properties in London N11 to personal legarees and the residue to the Cancer Research Campaign.

Sir Frederick William Delve, of

Sir Frederick William Delve, of Hove, East Sussex, former Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, left estate valued at £854.23! net. He left £1,000 each to the British Deaf Association and Salvation Army, £500 each to the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund, Loadon Fire Brigade Retired Members Association, British Heart Foundation and Multiple Scierosis Society, and £300 each to 16 other charities.

Mrs Margaret Laetitia Gifford. of

Aldeburgh, Suffolk, for 20 years

manager of the cinema at Aldeburgh, left estate valued at

Mr James Lawson Richards, of Holt Heath, Worcestershire, left estate valued at £3,749,175 net.

Professor Albert Goodwin, of

Yeovil, Somerset, Professor of Modern History at the University

Recent estates include (net, before

Memorial services

Philip Hughes, left, the new chairman of the trustees of the National Gallery, with Raymond Seitz, former American Ambassador to Britain, who has just become a trustee. They are standing in front of one of Paolo Uccello's large-scale panel decorations depicting The Battle of San Romano (1454-57)

Mr John Greville Branton, of Nunthorpe, Cleveland, left estate valued at £5.502,009 net. The Queen and the Duke of He left a aumber of bequests, including real property and life interests la £150,000 and haif the residue of his estate to personal legates, and the remainder of his estate to the lack Brunten Charlable Trust. Edinburgh were represented by Lord Somerleyson at a service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Viscount Boyne held yesterday at St Laurence's, Ludlow. Mr John Frederik Procope, of

The Prince of Wales was represented by Mr Gerald Ward, Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester by Major Nicholas Barne, the Duke of Kent by Mr Andrew Palmer and Princess Alexandra by Mrs Peter Alia. The Rev Dr Brian Curnew and

the Bishop of Ladlow officiated. The Rev David Good, the Archdeacon of Salop and Mr Simon Kenyon-Slaney, representing St. John Ambulance, read the prayers. Viscount Bayne, son, the Hon. Mrs Caroline Banks, daughter, Georgina Banks, granddaughter, and Mr Richard Hamilton-Russell read the lessons. Sir Peter Gads-den gave an address. The Bishop of Hereford pronounced the

blessing. The Lord Chancellor was repre-sented by Mr Alan Barnish, Clerk of the Shropshire Lieutenancy and Chief Executive of Shropshire

BIRTHS: Nell Gwyn, actress and mistress of Ring Charles II. Hereford, 1650; Sir Joseph Banks, naturalist, London, 1743; Hannah More, evangelist and educator. Fishponds, Brisnol, 1748; Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord, statesman, Périgord, France, 1754; Henry Havelock Ellis, physician and writer, Croydon, London, 1859; Fritz Kreisler, violinist, Vienna, 1875; James Joyce, novelist,

enna. 1875: James Joyce, novelist, Dublin. 1882: James Stephens, poet and novelist. Dublin, 1882: Jascha

DEATHS: Baldasarre Castiglione.

diplomat and writer, Toleto, 1529; Giovanni Palestrina, composer, Rome, 1594; Francis Hayman,

painter, London, 1776; Dmitri Mendeleyev, chemist, St Peters-burg, 1907; John L. Sullivan, bare kauckle fighter. Abington, Massachusens, 1918; Sir Owen Seaman, Editor of Punch 1906-32,

London, 1936; the Rev James Owen

Hannay (George Birmingham), novelist, London, 1950; Buddy

DEATHS

Heifetz, violinist, Vilna, 1901.

County Council. Among others

County Council. Among others present were:
Resemary Viscourtess Boyae (widow), Mr and the Hon Mrs Simon Sherwood (son-in-isw and daughter). Viscountess Boyne (dangheer-in-isw), Lord and Lady Cobbolid, Mr and Mrs Charles Worthington, Mrs John Stuciey, Major R Cotterell, Colonel and Mrs James Hamilton-Russell, Colonel and Mrs Britin Hamilton-Russell, Miss Rowena Jones, the Hon Mrs Roster, Mrs Michael Foster, Colonel and Mrs John Film, Mr Charles Filmt, Mr John Film, Mr Charles Filmt, Mr Michael Filmt, Major and Mrs John Sunton, Mr and Mrs John Matthews the many other Theods and trepresentatives of organisations connected with Viscount Boyne.

Mr John Rogers A memorial service for Mr John Rogers, farmer and landowner was held yesterday at St Paul's, Knightsbridge. The Rev Chris-upher Courtsuid officiated and the Rev Prillip Pennant led the prayers. Mr Edward Rogers and Mr Daniel Rogers, sons, read the lessons, and Colonel Peter Rogers. brother, gave an address. Among

MIS Rogers (witcow), Mrs David Rogers (mother), Mrs Larta Bewsher grand-mother), Mr and Mrs Charles Rogers (prother), Lady Brassey, (mother-in-law), Mr and Mrs Kim Brassey, Mr and Mrs Kim Brassey, Mr and Mrs John Moorebead and other members of antiby and telepate

Anniversaries BIRTHS: Nell Gwyn, accress and Holly, singer and songwriter, died in an air crash, near Mason City. Iowa, 1959; Bertrand Russell, 3rd Earl Russell, mathematician and philosopher, Plas Penrhyn, Merioochshire, 1970; George Whipple, pathologist, Nobel laure-ate 1934, New York, 1976. Ireland was represented in the British Parliament for the first

time. 1801. Greece declared war on Turkey, The state funeral of Queen Vicapria, 1901. Major-General Idi Amin declared

himself the absolute ruler of Uganda, 1971. The British Embassy in Dublin was besieged and burnt down,

Legal appointment Mr Austen Bruno Issard-Davies to be a Circuit Judge, assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Church news

Archdeacon of Tombridge Canon Judith Rose, Acting Arch-descon of Tonbridge, discess Rochester, is to be Archdeacon of Tonbridge, succeeding the Ven Richard Mason who has retired.

The Rev Laurence Blaney, Rector. Plisea, St Gabriel: to be Priest-in-charge. Mayland St Barnabas w Steeple St Lawrence and All Saints (Chelmsford). The Rev Paul Burridge-Burler,

Curate, Handsworth Woodhouse (Sheffield): to be Vicar, St Dunstan, Bellingham (Southwark).
The Rev Christopher Byers, Team
Rector, Thamesmead Team Ministry (Southwark): to be also an Honorary Canon of Southwark

Cathedral. The Rev Peter Clark, Vicar, Christ Church and St Stephen, Battersea and Rural Dean of Battersea (Southwark): to be also an Honorary Canon of Southwark Cathe-

The Rev Gwyn Clement, Assistant Curate, St James and St John, Priem Barnet to be Vicar, St Alphege, Hertford Road, Edmon-ton (Loadon).

The Rev Leslie Collinson, Curate, Corleston St Andrew (Norwich): 10 be Team Vicur, Banbury Team Ministry (Oxford). The Rev Gary Colville, Priest-in-charge, Foots Cray: to be Rector, Foots Cray (Rochester).

The Rev John Day, Vicar, St Margaret, Thombury (Bradford): to be Vicar, St Mary, Whithrik

(Ripon).
The Rev Stephen Edwards: to be Chaplain of HM Prison, Maidstone (Canterbury).
The Rev John Ewington, Vicar, St Saviour, Southend on Sea (Chelmstord: to be Vicar, Northam Team Ministry (Exteer).
The Rev Clare Garrett. Curate, Ewoza Harrild Team Ministry: to Ewyas Harold Team Ministry: to be Curate, Tupsley (Hereford). The Rev Marion Goddard, Acting

Assistant Chaplain, Greenwich District Hospital: to be Team Vicar, William Temple Church, Thamesuread Team Ministry (Southwark).
The Rev Green, Head of Religious Studies, RNIB New

College, Worcester: to be Vicar, All Saints, Clipstone (Southwell). The Rev Janet Hulett: to be Descon [NSM], Thame w Towersey (Oxford).

The Rev Dr Jonathan Trigg, Vicar, St Thomas, Oakwood: to be Vicar St Michael, Highgate (London).

Forthcoming marriages

Mr.J. Bagge Hansen and Miss A.J. Dampney The engagement is announced between Jacob, elder son of Mr and Mrs Torben Bagge Hansen, of Hadersley, Denmark, and Alexandra, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Theo: Dampney, of Hurn.

Mr G.S. Banner

Christeheuch

ANNUM SROOT

Mr G.S. Isaner
and Miss E.L. Heaton
The engagement is announced
between Gregory, son of Mr and
Mrs John Banner, of Orpington,
Kent, and Elisabeth, elder daugher
of Mr Bernard Heaton, of
Mersea Island, Essex, and Mrs
Manuscan Benhard of Mersea Margaret Benham, of Newbury, Berkshire, and stepdaughter of Mr

Mr W.N. Barton and Miss S.M. Prew The engagement is aumounced between Nigel, younger son of Mr and Mrs Jack Barton, of Bramshott. Hampshire, and Susan, daughter of the late Mr Edward Prew and of Mrs Mary

Prew, of Ibranster, Somerset.

Mr N.P.W. Boot and Miss M. Pest The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Mr and Mrs John Boot, of Woodthorpe, Nottingham, and Melanie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Melvyn Pett, of

Crawley Down, West Sussex. Mr J.T. Burdett and Miss K.G. Jackson The engagement is announced between James, younger son of Mr and Mrs Robert Burdett, of

Stoughton, West Sussex, and Kate, only daughter of Mrs Robert Smits, of Fulham, London.

The Hon F.W. Campbell and Miss K.J.M. Barrett The engagement is announced between Fred, younger son of Hugh, the late Thane of Cawdor, and of Cathryn, Countess Cawdor, and Katherine, third daughter of Mr Richard Barrett, of Dallas, Texas, and Mrs Jennifer Barrett, of

Mr R.C. Crossing and Miss L.M. Kennedy The engagement is announced between Robert, eldest son of Mr and Mrs William Crossing, of Orange, New South Wales, Australia, and Lucy, daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Kennedy, of Claygate, Surrey.

Lieutewant Comminder S. Curtis, USNR, and Miss C. Dent

The engagement is announced between Supphen, son of Mrs J. Eaker, of New Hampshire, and Caroline, daughter of Mr and Mrs Evelyn Dent, of Haslemere,

Mr S.J. Deckker. and Miss A.J. Barker-Davies The engagement is announced between Schastian John, son of the lase Dr Basil Deckker and of Mrs Joso Deckker, of South Kensing-ton, London, and Amanda Jane, daughter of Mr Clive Barker-Davies, of Paris, Prance, and of Mrs Colin Bothway, of Colum.

Mr D.R. Dimbleby and Miss C.L. Simmonds The engagement is aunounced between Daniel, son of Mr and Mrs Jonathan Dimbleby, of Bath

Avon, and Clare, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Simmonds, of Cookham Dean, Berkshire. Mr C.P.R. DuBuisson and Mile F.E. Bachy

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Peter DuBuisson, of Bramley, Surrey, and France Eleonore, daughter of M and Mme Pierre Bachy, of St Leu la Foret, France. Mr J.D. Farr

and Miss J.H. Gardner The engagement is amounced between Julian David, son of Mr and Mrs D.F.G. Farr, of Boston, Massachusens, and Jane Helen, daughter of Tony and Mary Gardner, of Ulverston, Cumbria.

and Miss C.L. Abbot-Anderson The engagement is announced between Peter, younger son of the Right Rev John and Mrs Dennis, of Inswich, and Kate, younger daughter of Mr Allan Abbot-Anderson, of Gartocharn, Dunbarionshire, and of Mrs. Anthony Douglas Jenkins, of Stoughton, Sussex.

Mr A.H. George and Miss C.L.D. Newcombe The engagement is announced between Alexander, only son of Mr. and Mrs Julian George, of East Grafton, Wiltshire, and Camilla second daughter of Dr and Mrs. Raymond Newcombe, of Can-

berra, Australia. Mr J.R. Goldman

and Mise S.A. Baxter The engagement is announced between James, second son of Mr. Tony Goldman, CB, and Mrs. Anne Goldman, of Godalming Surrey, and Samantha, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roy Barter, of

and Miss K. Huggins The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Johnson, of Kimbolton, Cambridgeshire, and Karen, elder daughter of Mr. Martin Huggins and Mrs Astrid-Ritchie, of Edinburgh.

Mr S.A. Leslie and Miss P.R. Parlonger The engagement is announced between Sieven, son of Mr and Mrs Duncan Rolland, of Hawick, Roxburghshire, and Pippa, daniele ster of Mr and Mrs Michael Purlanger, of Heddon on the Wall, Northumberland.

Lieutenant Colonel A.J. Loudon

and Mrs R.F.K. Jansen
The engagement is announced between Lieutenant Colonel Angusbetween Lieuenam Cotonel Angus-Loudon. The King's Own Scothish Borderers, younger son of the late Mr George Loudon, of Lanark, and of Mrs Evelyn Loudon, of Edinburgh, and Rachel, elder daughter of Major General and Mrs Andrew Whitehead, of Kin-

Mr CJ. McPherson and Miss SJ. Downton The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs DJ. McPherson, of

Meare, Somerset, and Samantha, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.P.J. Downton, of Wincanton, SOMETSEL Cantain D.R.Y. Mason

and Miss L.I. Egar

The engagement is announced between Captain David Mason, Royal Artillery, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.D.A.Y. Mason, of Market Weighton, Yorkshire, and Lucinda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs W.E. Egar, of Ackleton, Shmiethire

14人4、40

Major D.G. Newbury, reid, and Miss P.A. Mount

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs Grant Newbury, of Penn. younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Mount, of Snowshill Gloucestershire.

Mr G.T.D. Norman and Miss V. Burrows

The engagement is announced between Guy, son of the late Mr. Anthony Norman and of Mrs Tessa Forrest, formerly of Sevenoales, and stepson of Mr Barclay Forrest, of Duns, Berwickshire, and Vanessa, eldest daugh-ter of Mr Brian Burrows, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and Mrs Brendan: Mcinemey, of Belgravia, London.

Mr R.J. Turnill

:: TRADE: 0171 481 1982

and Miss S.E. Walthew The engagement is announced between Roly, son of the late Colonel Edwin Turnill and of Mrs. Adelaide Turnill, of Brampton. Cambridoeshire and Sarah. Cambridgeshire, and Sarah, daughter of Mr Robert Walthew and Mrs Elizabeth Walthew, of. Pristed, Essex.

BMD'S: 0171 782 7272 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

It is your own wickedness that will punish you, your own apostary that will condents you. See for yourselves how bitter e thing it is and how evil, in reject the Lord your God, to hold me in dread no benefit. longer. Jeremish 2 : 19 (REB)

BIRTHS ABU JABER - On January 28th at The Portland Hospital, to Alice (16e Pools) and Hasao. a daughter. Alicia Jelle Soraya, a little sister for Lella.

BURFOOT - On 26th Januar 10 Sue and Graham, daughter. Eleanor Mary. GLANVILL - On 31st January, of Bunhury, in Amanda (non Howe) and Stepheo, a deophier. Erme Loutse Rosamand, a alster for January

HUGHES - On James y 30th 1996 in Deventure on the Dart at Holme, to Philippe (née Smailthwaite) and Sebastian, a son, Henry Arthur Kelvin, Afform Revolution of the January 30th at The Portland Hospital to Helen (nice Baler) and Simon a sao. Sam. e Grother for

Henry.

LCOMES DAVIES - To Steve and Dianne the safe and punctual arrival of a son Kit Lawrance. brother 16 Genema. at 11.40 am 31st January 1996 at 5t Mary's, Melion Mowbray. Thanks in all concerned.

samellie - On January 27th 1996, to Sophie (née Johnstoni and Tom. a daughter. Olivia Caroline SMITH - On February 1st at

Doncaster, Yorkshire, to Elizabeth (née Buckley) and Richard. a beautiful Tyreman - On January
18th all The Portland
Hospital, to Elizabeth (nie
Tooless) and Magnus. o son.
Jack Alexander.

WARD - On January 27th, to Figna (ase Batras) and Timothy, a soh, Thomas James, a brother for Charles.

AGRELL - Stuart Olof.
peacethyly on 29th January
to his 82nd year. Dearly
toved father of Peter.
Micheal and Bealamin.
Cremation at Cambridge City
Cremation at Cambridge City
Cremation at Cambridge City
Cremation in Cambridge City
Constitute of Priday 9th
February. Flowers of
donations to either Help the
Aged or The Stroke
Association to HLJ. Paintin
Ltd., 43 High Street, Linton.
Cambridge, CBI GHB. (Tei:
01223-891226).
ARTHURE - Homphrey
George Edgar Arthura
C.B.E. F.R.C.G.,
passed peacethily to rest in
Cambridge on 29th January
1996, aged 90 years after a
ethort litness. Devoted
husband of the late Dickle
and dear father to Frances
and Richard. Missed dearly
by all his family. Fungral
Service at St. Cities Church,
Cambridge, on Tuesday 6th
February at 2.30 pm. No
flowers piesse, Donations to
Cherias Cross Hospitat.
Lexicon.

BEVAN - Denis George, LL

London.

STVAN - Denis George, Lt.
Communder R.N. (retired),
died suddenity on January
30th at Marford, Wrecham,
aged 82. Beloved hisaband of
Serish and dear father of
Diane ead Robio and
fressured grandfather.

BUNDOCK - Frank Noel pacefully passed away on Saturday 27th January to Rottingdean. aged 92. Bunny formerly of Chigwell Enex and Poerto Andraltz. Mallorca, greatly loved by all, will be sorely mixed. Sarvice at Woodvale Crematorium. Leven Road. Brighton 9n Monday, February 8th at 12 noon. CARSON - (née Jones). On January 31 st 1996. Margaret Aviz (Betty). peacefully in Bancowell, Wife of the late James Carbon M.D., F.R.C.P., a dear mother and grandmother. M.D., F.R.C.P., a dear mother and grandmother. Funeral Service at St. Anne's Church. Besiow on Friday. February 9th at 11 am prior to cremation at Chesterheid. Family flowers, densities to the Molitiple Scierosis Society. C/o J.W. & J. Mettam Ltd., Mill Street, Bakrwell DE45 1DX,

DEATHS

FRASER - Sindenty on 29th January in Oxford, Caroline Mary, beloved daughter of Sir Angus Freese and Mrs. Margaret Hemmings, and much loved sitter of Simon. Postward Service will be held at 81 Michael's Chorch, Highgate, No. at 11.30 am on Friday 9th Fobruary, Flowers W destred and enquries to Levertoo & Sons Ltd., 1 Deamark Terrace, Fortis Green, N.2 9thG, sai: (O181) 444-5753.

FRASER - (née Henderson) Shrabeth Jene, on Jenuary 29th 1996. Widow of Bill, mother of bussn and rilged and much inved grandmother. Funeral service at Puthey Vate Cressionium on Weshesday 7th February at 3 pm.

MART - Janet Clani née Fyvie.
Caroline Terrace. London
SWI. After a long limen died
peacelaity on 29th January
1996. Futueral Service on
Tuesday 6th February al
Pulmay Vale Crematerium at
2.48 pm (not as previously
stated, Florat britants please
to Ernest Larner & Son,
Funeral Directors, 246
Upner Richmoad Road,
Pulmey by 12 noon.

HOLDSWORTH - Mich HOLDSWORTH - Michael on 30th January, dearly beloved husband of Betty and much loved by his soos Jarency. Richard. Tunothy and Nicholas and by his daughters-in-law and grandchildren. Private crenation at 3 pm Tuesday 6th February at Chelmstord Cramaforium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the R.S.P.B. or the Royal Horticultural Society may be sent to M. Lucidng & Son. 195 New London Road, Chelmsford. Easex CM2 CAE.

DEATHS 1AVELLE - On 29th January
1996, Suzamie Mai (Pip)
1996, Maio Maio Maio
1996, Maio Maio Maio
1996, Paperal
1997, At her request
12 noon, Family flowers
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15 noon, Family flowers
16 noon, Family flowers
17 noon, Family flowers
18 noon, Family flowers
18 noon, Family flowers
19 noon, Family flowers
10 noon, Family flowers

.. £1.410.605

LEWY - Alix Cordella. daughter of the late Sir Maurice Levy St. and Lady Levy of Lincotarine, died peacefully at Harrogata District Hospital 00 Stat January 1996, Foogral private Founds Enward to The Dooaley Sanctuary c/o Swattson's, 59 Franklin Road, Harrogata, HGI SED.

WADDEN Richard
Wyndham, Killed in action
on Sunday 28th January in
Boonia, Befored son of Brian
and Scilla, greatly loved
brother of Bella, Susaimshi
and David, Funeral Service
at Snerborne Abbey on
Thursday 8th February at
2.50 pm. No nowers please,
Donaldon to Army Charties
c/o The Light Dragoous
Charliable Trust, Homa
Headquarters, The Light
Dragoous, Fenham Berracis,
Hewcastle-upon-Tyoe.
Rumandering also Truoper
John Kally and Truoper
John Kally and Truoper
not mat they have died, but
redoce that they have died, but

OWEN - On Jenuary Sist. Sheisgh Myzie Owen, widow of Rowand Highert Owen. CMG. aged 81. Fuheral at Guildford Crematorium on Taesday, February 6th, at Span, Densations to the British Heart Foundation are invited. Edepthies to Ladre, let: (III428) 643824.

PENNY - On January 29th Dr. Richard William (Dick) FRCP perceivily at home having suffered from concer, but at a time of its choosing and following the death of his wife Cilian Maria (Jingater a long balle against liness. Cramation private but, by request, doughters to lite of flowers to St Christopher's Hespice. Sydenham. Menorian Service on 1st March at Duivich College Chopel at Apm. All are waitoms. No mourning colours please.

PRIICHARD - Dries Height, peacefully at Whitstake & Tankerton Houselal Thorsday ist Forwary 1996, Much loved, maraned and missed by Car. Martin and Sandra. Cremation at Charles Crematorium Thursday 8th February 1996 at 11.20 cm. No flowers below. Donations to Friends of Wollstable & Tankering Machine do C.W. Lyons & Son. 53 Orders Street, Whitstable, Keni CTS 108.

ROWE - Or 1st February Leutenami Colonel Herbert Henry Kingeley Rowe D.S.C., lete Royal Tenk Regiment and formetty of Winfrith House. Most beloved husband of Angele and loving father of Susan and Henry and his grandchildren Charles, Louise and Seren. Funeral at St Christopher's Church, Winfrith Newburgh, on 15th February at 2.50 pm. Family flowers only. Donalisms if desired to R.T.R. Benevolent Fund. Sovingise Cams.

DEATHS

RUSSELL-COSE - On Sist RUSSELL-COSE - On Sig.
Jahusty, peacefully in
Londen, Trevor, lather of
Rupet, Theres, Piers and
Fabian and deer friend of
Fison Morpan, Faberal
Service at Colders Green
Cremstorium (East Chaptel)
on Wednesday 7th February
at 11.15 ann. Flowers please
by 9.45 am or donations for
Triting Homice to Kenyone,
7d Rochester Row, SWI.
(0171) 834-4624.

SHIER - On 31st January peacefully in hospital in her search year, Mabel, widow of Arthur Stanley and loved cooter of Peter, Barbers and Roser, Fumeral will take alace on Thursday 8th February at 2 pm at 51 John's Wood Partels Church, followed by committed at 62 Mary redoce Cremitation at 62 Mary redoce Cremitation at 62 Levertes a 8cm Ltd. 222 Events of Street, NWI 18D.

A BITTHENATE Navesburger, Original, Superstry present, Freeboard 2000 906609
200 YEARS oil, A Thomas of 1796, Auston Navesburger Tel 01481 712590 Past 725166

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MEMORIAL SERVICES LEVETT - A Service of Thankspiving for the life of Howard Gioppe? Levett will be Beid 12 Canterbury Cathedral on Monday 18m March at 5 pm.

MUSICAL

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Tel: 0005 081 445 CLAPHAM Sth. Hope hat bed to ten hea. Mine to Tube & Com-men. Grad heat, recep. Mr. pdn. £450 pan sect. 01.01 675 4274.

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E. Capton, Bon Lovi, PLATRIATES Landon's forement. (Est 1970) Protectional flat standing service. 0171-089 8491 Any Tickes obtained LUX S.W.1. Let ILette on Mon-Fri form grad Home rts with shorte Genter E99 Inc.650 6257. STREATHAM HELL Prof. p. to str to St. oven der 191, 5 mins SR. 1280pens 0181 7691182.

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TICKETS FOR SALE ALL TICKETS: Int. Rossley, Phon-less, R. Aknow, Clapters, Simply Red, All major pop, about & the-stre, CC's accet 0171 926 0086 ALL TREMETH. Chapter, Rughy Inters. Wester, sports, concerts morte wide but 0171 #39 #363 GRETTERNAM GOLD Can. Ex-cellent how predictive for Gold Cap on 14th March with sepa-rate dhate room and belong previously predictive. £10,000 that fourfailing extented Con-tact four No 3407 F RATIONS Rughr 96" Tichels Waynet for all Teaches Tel-0171 929 8622/ Ft 929 8485

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Total OLS: 9486922 Abra/Abr.

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY

OBITUARIES

Sir John Carmichael, KBE, civil servant, businessman and golfer, died on January 6 aged 85. He was born on April 22, 1910

IOHN CARMICHAEL returned to his native Scotland from Sudan in the late 1950s. The experience he had gained in Africa as a civil servant and financial and economic adviser to the first postindependence Sudanese Government made him a welcome addition to the boardrooms of several top British companies. Besides his time at Fisons where he was chief executive, 1962-66 - he served the fishing, gas, jute and chemical industries.

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Carmichael was also a first-class golfer, who played off a single-figure handicap. He could often be seen striding around the Old Course at St Andrews, and won the Royal and Ancient's Jubilee Vase there in 1964. He was captain of the Royal and Ancient, 1974-75.

John Carmichael was born in St Andrews and educated there at Madras College. He graduated from St Andrews University with first class honours in mathematics and physics. He was given his rugby Blue, and had a trial for the Scottish team. Although he never won a cap, he was a reserve on 13 occasions.

After a year on a Commonwealth Fellowship at the University of Michigan, he returned to Britain and joined Guardian Assurance. Then in 1936 he decided on a complete change of sever. He joined the Sudanese Civil Selvice, and went out to Sudan, where his duties included a spell as Permanent Under-Secretary to the Ministry of Finance. In that post Carmichael was given a free rein to develop his business skills. He used to joke that, on one occasion during the Second World .. War, he was involved in selling the entire cotton crop.

Sudan was one of the few African countries to retain the service of some British civil servants after independence, Carmichael stayed on after 1956, and Ismail al-Azhari, the first Prime Minister, later fondly described him as "the white man in our woodpile". But in 1959 Carmichael returned to Scotland and bought a house at Balmullo, just outside St Andrews. There he cultivated a handsome garden, full of all the known da By-products to the Fisons fertiliser fashioned textile business, based in

SIR JOHN CARMICHAEL



species of heather in Scotland. He was appointed to the UK delegation to the General Assembly of the United Nations and the following year, 1960, joined Fisons as a non-executive director, initially as chairman of its pest-control subsidiary in Sudan.

Two years later he was made chief executive of Fisons, succeeding Avison Wormald. Carmichael brought in George Burton as his deputy chief executive, and, while Burton concentrated on overseas trade, Carmichael turned his mind to the bome market.

Wormald had already begun the process of diversification of Fisons interests, and Carmichael continued. the process: For the past century, the Fisons market had been largely UK-. based. Carmichael made it more of an international player, and he spent a good deal of time abroad, travelling with Burton to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Kenya and Uganrange were introduced, and included weedkillers, shampoos and specialised food products. While other British companies struggled through a lean period. Fisons remained in healthy shape throughout the mid-1960s. After George Burton had succeeded as chief executive in 1966, Carmichael became deputy chairman for six years, and then reverted to his old status on the

board as non-executive director until

Fisons was one in a growing number of board appointments. By the late 1960s; Carmichael had been brought onto the board of Jute industries (renamed Sidlaw Industries in 1969), and groomed by Sir William Walker, the outgoing chairman, as heir apparent. He was appointed chairman in 1970 and remained in the post for the

Carmichael's main achievement at Sidlaw was to transform it from an oldDundee, to a major provider of services to the nascent oil industry in Scotland. When he arrived, jute, the product on which the business's fortunes were founded, was increasingly being provided not by Dundee companies but by those in Bangladesh and Calcutta. Diversification was the only option if the company was not to sink with the rest of the industry.

In 1972 Carmichael organised the lease (subsequently the purchase) of reclaimed land within the port area of Peterhead, north of Aberdeen. The company began to organise the logistics of the management of these ports. and so got involved, at just the right moment, in North Sea oil. The period from the mid-1970s to the mid-1980s was one of substantial growth for Sidlaw, much of it attributable to Carmichael's timely initiative.

He was also chairman of the Herring Advisory Board, 1960-63, and deputy chairman of the Independent Television Authority, 1960-63. By the mid-1970s be had reduced his commitments in the South and was concentrating his energies in Scotland. He served on the boards of the Royal Bank of Scotland, Abbey National, and the Scottish Development Advisory Board. He was appointed KBE in 1955.

During his period as the Rector's assessor at St Andrews University. 1965-68, he worked with such diverse figures as C. P. Snow, Sir Learie Con-stantine and Lord Boothby. Carmichael was a softly-spoken

man, with a disarming, lopsided smile. He enjoyed family life, and every year took his family on holiday, sometimes less successfully than others. One year. he rented a caravan with which to lour Scotland. He reached as far as Speyside, not much north of St Andrews, before discovering that he had little idea how to reverse the cumbersome vehicle, let alone park it. Instead, he booked the entire family into the local hotel for the entire holiday.

.Those who knew him well suspected that he may never have had any real intention of venturing further north than Speyside. With many good golf courses at hand, there seemed little

He is survived by his wife Cecilia. whom he married in 1940, and by one son and three daughters.

JOHN EDLIN

John Edlin, journalist. died in Johannesburg after a stroke on January 29 aged 50. He was born in Invercargill, New Zealand, on August 21.

TO THE despair of his editors - and to the delight of his readers - John Edlin decided early on in his 33-year-long career as a journalist in Africa that real stories could be gathered just as easily in bars and shebeens as by more orthodox means. But, despite achieving cult status as a heroic drinker and featuring as a thinly disguised helfraising character in a number of excellent novels set in Africa, John Edlin always remained a fine reporter. From the Congolese uprising in 1966, where he tracked down the French menenary leader Bob Denard and other notorious soldiers of fortune. Edlin chronicled with distinction the colonial and civil wars in Angola and Mozambique, the Rhodesian bush war and the collapse of old Cold War rivalries.

For more than three decades, he traversed independent Africa making friends and enemies of some of the most influential politicians; he was expelled from seven countries and jailed in at least two.

He witnessed mass starvation in Ethiopia in 1985 and once described how he had watched doctors marking the foreheads of children who could be saved. He asked Mother Teresa what could be done to help the others. "What are you going to do?" she said. Edlin considered the question over a beer or two, and in six months had provided start-up funds for an orphanage for 600 children outside Addis

Ababa. Divorced but childless, he had earlier funded the educa-

non of Moroccan orphans after a reporting assignment on the Saharan war and supported a children's home in Zimbabwe. His open-handed generosity extended to any of his colleagues who had fallen on hard times and to young reporters struggling to

make their way. In Zimbabwe he was known as Chibhoyi, or "one of the boys" in the Shona language of the black journalists to whom he was menior and friend. John Edlin came to Southern Rhodesia from New Zea-

land in 1963 and went to work for a number of Rhodesian newspapers before leaving for Zambia and the Congo, Hired by the South African-owned Argus Africa News Service, he rebased himself in Ghana and travelled widely throughout

JAMES HOLLAND

West Africa, breaking many trips to retrace the steps of Graham Greene's Journey

without Mops.

Edlin provided the novelist
David Pownall with the model for a raucous young reporter from New Zealand, John Pyper, in his two novels set in Zambia, The Roining Tree War and African Horse.

Returning to southern Afri-ca from Ghana in 1972, he worked for British newspapers and Reuters before becoming a full-time Associated Press correspondent in Rhodesia in 1976. At the time of his stroke on the dance floor of a nightclub in Dakar, Edlin had completed a year-long assignment teaching African journalists in Senegal.

He is survived by his mother and two brothers,

BRIGADIER BILL VICKERS

Brigadier Bill Vickers DSO, OBE, died on January 28 aged 82. He was born on January 19, 1914.

THE challenge of commanding an infantry battalion other Briggs and Sir Gerald than one of one's own regiment is always formidable. During the second half of the task faced by Bill Vickers. 1956, Vickers concentrated on a tall, raw-boned man of the Kuala Pilah district, where rainer gaunt aspect, was especially so. After 22 years of service exclusively with Brit-is troops, he was appointed to command 2nd Battalion 2nd King Edward VII's Own Gurkha Rifles (The Sirmoor Rifles), whose stocky, tough but unfailingly humorous soldiers stood only as high as his shoulder. This was in Hong Kong in January 1956 but the battalion was due to move to Malaya, where the eight-yearold communist insurrection. still smouldered on.

Vickers commanded 2nd/2nd "Goorkhas", as they were invariably known, during two years of intensive al hardcore of the communist terrorists, initially in Negeri Sembilan state in the south-

west of the Malay peninsula. By that stage of the campaign. the tide had turned against the insurrection, thanks to the farsighted policies of the successive Directors of Operations, Generals, Sir Harold:

rations by "A" compa the battalion, commanded by Major Grahame Vivian, acting on Special Branch information and intelligence from surrendered terrorists, killed or captured several of the key communist leaders in the

The following year saw 2nd/2nd Goorkhas operating in the neighbouring state of Johore, where a high proportion of the predominantly Chinese population persisted in their support of the terrorists still in the jungle. Accompanied by a Special Branch officer and only a small escort. Vickers trekked into the interioperations against the residu- or on four occasions to negotiate personally the surrender of terrorists. He was mentioned in dispatches in 1957 and the . C. L. Vickers, an electrical en-



citation for his award of the DSO in 1958 read: "Lieutenant-Colonel Vickers has added to the renown and fighting traditions of his regiment and proved himself to be a fearless. skilled and determined leader. Inspired by his leadership, his men achieved many successes in jungle operations against a wary, treacherous and dangerous enemy."

Arthur William Neville

Langston Vickers was born in London, the son of William

gineer. He was educated at Clifton, which he represented at cricket, rugby, fives and boxing, and entered the Royal Military College Sandhurst via a cadet scholarship in 1932. He was commissioned into the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry in 1934. After prewar service in In-

to accompany the 1st Battalion to France in 1939. Later, as part of the 15th Infantry Brigade, the same battalion took part in the ill-fated British intervention in Norway. Virtually without air support, the brigade was landed near the Aandalsnes fiord on April 18, 1940, only to be withdrawn 12 days later in the face of the German advance northwestwards up the Gudbrand Valley from Oslo, strongly supported by the Luftwaffe.

After staff college in 1941 and appointments in England. he returned to regimental service as second-in-command of 4th Battalion The Somerset Light Infantry in time for the Normandy invasion. He was wounded and evacuated, only to return as soon as be had

recovered, this time in command of the 1st Battalion The Worcestershire Regiment in the 43rd Wessex Division. which saw stiff fighting in Holland and Germany in the winter of 1941-45.

He was appointed OBE in 1945 in recognition of his war service and posted to the Staff dia and Burma with the 2nd College, Camberley, as an KOYLI, Vickers was recalled instructor in 1948. Shortly after the outbreak of the Korean War, he was appointed AA & QMG of the 1st Commonwealth Division. The years 1951-52 were the grimmest of this gruelling war, during which Vickers was mennoned in dispatches and awarded the United States Bronze Star. A brief period with 2nd KOYLI was followed by brevet promotion to lieu-tenant-colonel, a period on the Allied Staff in Berlin and then command of 2nd/2nd Gurkha

> Following his successful period in command, he was promoted colonel and served on the Nato staff of Allied Forces Central Europe and as an instructor at the RAF Staff College, before being appointed Inspector of Intelligence and Commandant of the Joint Services intelligence Centre in the rank of brigadier. He retired from the Army in 1967 but remained in government service, engaged in security work, until 1970.

For eight years he served as general secretary of the Soil Association, working with E. F. Schmacher and Lady Eve Balfour. For many years during his retirement he was an active member of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association. but was able to find time to play single-figure handicap golf and local cricket in and around Harleston in Norfolk, where he had made his home. He is survived by his wife Joan, whom he married in 1939, and by their two sons

and two daughters.

James Holland, ORE. one of the designers of the 1951 Festival of Britain, died on January 7 aged 90. He was born io Gilliogham, Keni, oo September 19, 1905.

HIS students will remember James Holland as a fine teacher, his colleagues as a gifted painter, illustrator and designer, his family and friends as a man of conscience but history will remember him for his major contribution to the 1951 Festival of Britain. Born in Kent, James Sylves-

ter Holland was the son of a naval blacksmith and never lost his love of the sea. After going to school at the Mathematical School, Rochester, and studying painting at the Rochester School of Art, where he returned later as a governor, he won a rare painting scholarship to the Royal College of Art in 1924. His tutor was Paul Nash and conteniporaries there included Henry Moore, with whom Holland worked at one time, and the Canadian painter James Boswell. He and Boswell became lifelong friends, and together they made a number of trips to France, where Holland held his first exhibition before he

graduated. Leaving the Royal College of Art. Holland was immediately offered an art directorship with Foote Cone & Belding, working on a number of top advertising accounts such as Shell, Imperial Airways and the Empire Marketing Board. He went on to establish himself as a freelance artist and was much in demand.

With war on the horizon. Holland, logether with Boswell and another artist James Fitton, set up the influential Artists International Associarion, a pacifist organisarion of artists. During the war Holland worked at the Ministry of Information, mainly on exhibition design, and it was here that he acquired the skills that were to equip him for his



joined the team in 1948 at a time of rationing and acute shortage of materials. The Ministry of Works had

looked at the South Bank site and declared it an impossible task. The design team not only took on the task but decided that each should design a section of the site. With his maritime background it was natural that Holland should choose "Sea and Ships". To his further delight, the First Lord of the Admiralty offered him the aircraft carrier Campania to tour Britain as a floating exhibition hall of which Holland was the designer in charge. The Festival design team met formally at least twice a week and then afterwards for informal suppers. Each member of the group had specific responsibilities but all the major decisions were the group's joint effort.

That the ambitious exhibition opened on time, was so well attended and was so

job in the design group of the much fun was in no small part 1951 Festival of Britain. He due to the experience and skill of the design team, who remained as close friends at the completion of the job as when they began. When the exhibition closed Holland was appointed OBE.

He was president of the Chartered Society of Designers. 1960-61, and shortly afterwards he was appointed group art director at Erwin Wasey Advertising. In 1963 he accepted the offer to return to teaching as head of graphic design at Birmingham Polytechnic. In 1971, on his retirement from Birmingham, Holland became education officer at the Chartered Society of Designers and he used his experience to help design courses to become more professional. During this period he wrote Minerva of Fifty, a history of the society. Holland is survived by his second wife Jacqueline, two

daughters from his first marriage and a son and a daughter from his second.

PERSONAL COLUMN

ANNOUNCEMENTS

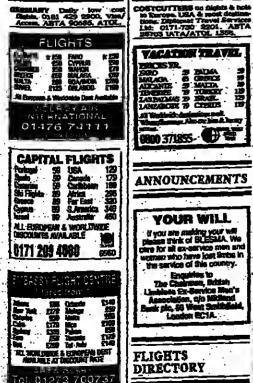
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BOTH OF BERNELDS

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LAWRENCE AND HIS LEGEND

RICHARD ALDINGTON: Lawrence of Arabia. A Biographical Enquiry, 448pp. Collins, 25s. The title of the French edition of Mr Aldington's book - Lawrence l'Imposteur - more frankly acknowledges its character than the sub-title of the English: a biographical enquiry. He has searched the already published literature by and about Lawrence for every scrap of material that can be turned to his victim's discredit.

Lawrence is vulnerable to this kind of attack. A great popular legend was built up for him in the early 1921s, and inflated with precdutes many o early 1948s, and milities with attreouses many or which today seem not only false but footish. Mr Aldington adduces evidence to show that Law-rence, while publicly depressing the growth of the legend, privately consided at it. In truth, vanity, of the kind that "backed into the limelight", was Lawrence's besetting weakness; some of his warmest admirers have acknowledged it; he himself was conscious of it, castigated himself for in, and could not escape from it. But no one who ever sat up into the small hours while Lawrence piled up tales of funtastic adventure, and noticed the look of slight disdain that came into his eyes if the fistener seemed to be accepting the improbabilities too literally, will turn to the Seven Pillars of Wisdom for a precise record of the

course of the desert campaign.
It does not follow, however, that the military value of the Arab revolt was insignificant and the

ON THIS DAY

February 2, 1955 类型的

T. E. Lawrence, Lawrence of Arabia, became a legend in his lifetime, but there were always those who regarded his accounts of his career with some sceptiosm. Among these was the poet and novelist Richard Aldington.

credit for such success as it achieved stolen by Lawrence from other men, which is Mr Addington's thesis. We have the testimony of Colonel Stirling, Staff Officer with the Arab forces, that: "Lawrence took the limelight from those of us professional soldiers who were forminate enough serve with him, but never once have I heard a

whisper of jealousy. We sensed that we were serving with a man immeasurably our superior." Mr Aldington opens with what he chooses to call "research", that Lawrence was born out of wedlock—a fact that any of Lawrence's friends, or Lawrence himself io his lifetime, would have

given him for the asking.

Much play is made with the evidence that he was not offered the appointment of High

Commissioner to Egypt in 1925. Anention is thus diverted from the very strong evidence (not depending upon Lawrence's word) that he was sounded about taking the same office in 1922 by Mr Winston Churchill, under whom he was then serving in the Colonial Office. Again, when Mr Aldington admirs that "he was offered by a banker, and refused, a position in the City of London," is it not a little disingenuous not to mention that the banker was Montagu Norman and the position that of Secretary of the Bank of

But, as has been said, Lawrence's greatness is not to be assessed by details. To Mr Aldington it is a myth fabricated by "the Lawrence Bureau". We have to consider who the Lawrence Bureau were. The Arab Revolt was, as Lawrence himself said only the sideshow of a sideshow. Yes, for its great importance to the larger campaign the witness is Allenby, the commander-in-chief; for Lawrence's unique leadership and fitness for the highest command. Wavell: for his capacity for the greatest civilian offices. Sir Winston Churchill: for his scholarship, Hogarth, Sir Leonard Woolley, and Sir Ernest Barker, for his literary skill, Wells and Sir Winston Churchill again; for his paladin quality as an adversary, Clemenceau, It is permissible to prefer the judgment of the Lawrence Bureau to Mr Aldington's.

His worst enemy does not think I superneau dull

His worst enemy does not think Lawrence a dull subject and Mr Aldington is not usually a dull-writer. But he has managed to write an uncommenty dull book.

THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Tories rule out leadership poll

■ Senior Conservatives capitalised on improved party morale by formally ruling out any challenge to John Major's leadership before the next general election.

The surprise move came after a series of strong question time performances by the Prime Minister exploiting the Harriet Harman affair, and as the Labour leader himself acknowledged the gains the Tories had reaped...

Internet shopping boom forecast

■ The Internet is set to become a multi-billion pound world superstore. Two leading credit card companies announced that they have developed a way of making safe payments over the electronic computer network that encircles the globe. The computer purchase of goods could grow from a £350 million-ayear business to £200 billion.

Dog judgment

A rearful and acrimonious battle over the ownership of J.J. a potentially valuable Irish setter pup was decided when a judge agreed it could remain with the couple who bought it ...

Paying the piper

Thousands of composers and songwriters have been deprived of income by inefficiency and poor management at the Performing Rights Society, said a government report...... Page 1

Missing doctors

Hospital casualty departments are facing the worst shortage of doctors in living memory and are struggling to keep their doors open, said the BMA......Page 2

Firemen killed Two part-time firemen died in-

side a blazing house in the former mining village of Blaina, Gwent. after wrongly being told a young boy was trapped inside Page 3 Royal accountant

The post of the Keeper of the

Privy Purse is going to Michael Peat, a former partner in the accounts, KPMG..

Church pensions

The Anglican Church's 1.5 million regular attenders will be expected to dig deeper in their pockets to fund the clergy's pensions under proposals to go before the General Synod next Page 6

Dawn exhumation

Police exhumed the body of the man they believe to be Scotland's most notorious killer at dawn in a snow-covered ..Page 7

Harman row

The row over Harriet Harman's decision to send her son to a selective grammar school provoked a series of bitter internal rows in her constituency Labour party at Camberwell Page 10

Birthday unrest

Half a million miners chose President Yeltsin's 65th birthday to go on a nationwide strike in an echo of the industrial action that helped to bring down Mikhail

Airline dispute

The British Government may mount a legal challenge to the European Commission's decision to let Iberia, Spain's national airline, receive another £440 million

Chirac's charter

President Chirac, on the first state visit to America by a French leader in 12 years, proposed a charter to reform Nato...

Dole gaffe

Robert Dole's handlers arranged for the 72-year-old presidential candidate to visit a brewery then tried to cancel when they discovered it produced a beer called "Old Man Ale".....

Wedge-shaped UFO over Manchester

A British Airways jet had a close encounter with an unidentified flying object while landing at Manchester. The Boeing 737 was overtaken at high speed by a wedge-shaped craft. Captain Roger Wills reported that the UFO, emblazoned with small white lights and possibly a black stripe, flashed so close that his co-pilot ducked......Page 1



The Princess Royal examines bales of wool at a shearing shed during her visit to Goose Green in the Falkland Islands

BUSINESS

PPP: The private healthcare insurance group is poised to shed its provident status and turn itself into a limited company valued at an estimated £500 million. The move could pave the way for an eventual stockmarket flotation...... Page 21

Economy: Production from British manufacturers hit its lowest point for three years, leading to the first decline in manufacturing employment for two years...... Page 21

Retail: Stephen Hinchliffe, the Sheffield businessman, is set to expand his empire with the purchase of Saxone and Curtess Page 21 Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 6.S to 3752.8. Sterling rose from 83.3 to 83.6 after rises from \$1.5110 to \$1.5127 and from DM2.2476 to DM2.2597Page 24

Footbatt: Roger Stanislaus, of Leyton Orient, was banned for one year by the FA after being found guilty of using a performance-enhancing drug ...

Cricket: Australia may forfeit their first game in the World Cup unless the venue is changed from Colombo. A decision will be made early ... Page 40

Rugby union: For all the talk of expansive play the primary objective for England and Wales in the five nations' championship match at Twickenham tomorrow will be Page 40

Skiing: The Great Britain women's alpine skiing team have returned to the Tyrolean mountains that claimed the life of Kirsteen McGibbon.

Taste of Bacon: As an unknown self-portrait by Francis Bacon is unveiled to the public for the first time, Richard Cork assesses its importance as a work of art .. Page 29 Terrible theatrical death: Fields of Ambrosia, an American musical

ghastly as it sounds, says Benedict Nightingale italv's finest: Crooner Paolo Conte may not be a household name in Britain but he is now bringing

set on Death Row, really is as

his Italian charms to the . Page 30 Barbican. Youthful twin track: The chart wannabes Gemini, twin brothers. have found a novel way to get their musical message across to the young: they are taking it into the

-- TOMORROWC

IN THE TIMES

EAT OUT FOR £5

Lunch, or dinner, for

as little as £5 -

see The Times on

Valerie Grove meets Thomas Quasthoff, the singer who received

tumultuous applause at the Wigmore Hall this week. "I am blessed," he says - but he was born with no arms and stunted Page 14 Smack: When the film Train-

spotting comes out later this month, people who know nothing about it will come forward to give their opinions on drug addiction. But just what is the depressing

EDUCATION Driven to revolt: Today, Vice-Chan-

cellors will decide whether to charge new students a levy of £300 - a first step towards paying for higher education ____Page 33

Tricks of the exam trade: How to choose a tutorial college for Easter revision, and get the most

Nato must cease being a simple tool of American policy, under instruction from the Pentagon. The US must accept the development. in the heart of the alliance, of a real European defence identity. Jacques Chirac has been arguing this case for a long time. But today the US cannot suspect him of conspiring to chase the Americans out of Europe, as de Gaulle was often suspected of

Preview: A solar-powered rickshaw could be the transport of the future: Tomorrows World in Line bay (BBC), 7.30pm). Review: Matthew Bond checks out a political drinking-hole..... Page 39

Spanish malpractice

Powers to police state subsidies are among the strongest that the Commission has. Why should national Governments grant it any increased powers at this year's review of the Maastricht treaty when existing powers are used in such an anti-European way? Page 17

Degree quality

Support seems solid among vicechancellors for a proposal to charge £300 as the price of a place at university. The proposal, though crude, has one merit: it focuses, attention on the need for further

Young masters

An unknown self-portrait by Francis Bacon, painted when he was only 21, has just been discovered in a private collection of paintings. This is a significant discovery, for Bacon destroyed much of his own youthful work

BERNARD LEVIN

Arthur Scargill is very close at making himself a fool; his new: party will get a handful of voter about the same number as Lord Sutch - and his new "party" will wither on the vine SIMON BARNES

It was the Australians who are called the settlers from England whinging Poms. But this etc. complaint about the Poms is itselfa.

kind of whinge PETER RIDDELL The debate about MPs' pay is much broader than review bodies, or even salary levels. It is about what-

sort of MPs we want ____Page 10

OBITUARIES

Sir John Carmichael, civil servant and businessman; John Edlin, journalist: Brigadier Bill Vickers: James Holland, a designer of the Festival of BritainPage 19

Solutions to university funding crisis: MPs demand for pay rise: treatment for backache; ghostly

Sunny intervals

Cloudy

Drizzie

Sunny showers

😎 Cightning Hail

18 (Calsius)

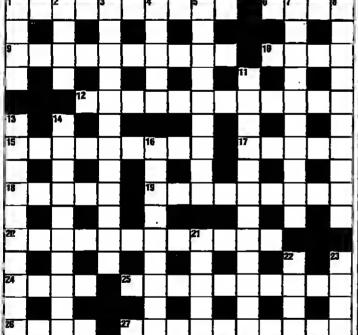
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Overcas Rain

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,080



ACROSS

- 1 Direction given to people to find place for meeting (10).
- 6 Retired judge gets old-fashioned reward (4).
- 9 Imperative exercise taken by soldiers and politicians (10).
- 10 A point lower and lighter (4). 12 Choice of words in men's curses
- 15 Suspended, perhaps, but under control (2, 1.6).
- 17 Better part of Venice ruined (5). 18 Breed fish, so to speak (5).
- 19 Phone repair workers, achieving first-class marvellous things (9).
- 20 Striker in old conflict has to find accommodation for workers (12).
- 24 Informally opposed to taking a

Solution to Puzzle No 20,079



- 25 Junior officer, discovered holding flight, finally took off (10). 26 Fare out East (4).
- 27 Farmer worked in situation where it's always very cold (10).
- I Soundly packaged and trans-
- parted (4). 2 Blacken part of Ireland (4).
- 3 Criticisms about separate cells
- 4 North American policeman loses little time getting free (5).
- S Almost certain to get a run, say it's a cinch! (9). 7 Trespassed in the heart of Kent
- and instructed to cross river (10). 8 Lower class going with current trend (10).
- II Rugby player to suspend before part of match? (5-3A). 13 Boundary to settle and put on
- solid footing (4-6). 14 i sumped banker, for example
- 16 Insist on getting answer from umpire - not out (9). Met to change clan's image (S).
- 22 Holy Roman Emperor looking exactly the same in mirror (4).
- 23 Work on newspaper opportunity arises (4):

Times Two Crossword, page 40

TIMES WEATHERCALL

tretand will be mostly dry, brightest in the

V & S Yorks & Dales .

S W Scotland
W Central Scotland
Edin 5 File/Luthter 8 Borders
E Congal Scotland
Grampan & E Highlands
N W Scotland
Cattness, Orlong & Shetland
Network

AA ROADWATCH

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Condon 4 51 pm to 7 37 am Bristol S 01 pm to 7 47 am Edinburgh 4 47 pm to 8 75 am Manchester 4 52 pm to 7.52 am Penzance S 17 pm to 7.54 am

Saturday for details and first voucher # PLUS ... Jonathan Meades reviews six of the best restaurants on offer

FORECAST General: England and Wales will have a largely dry day with most cloud in the east. There will be bright or suriny spells across many areas. Fog or freezing tog patches may linger in places. Widespread frost will return overnight. Scotland and Northern related will be mostly dry brightest in the C) W Midlands, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, low: bright spells. Fog patches. Mainly dry. Wind NE light. Cold. Max 3C (37F). ☐ Charinel Isles, SW England, S Wales

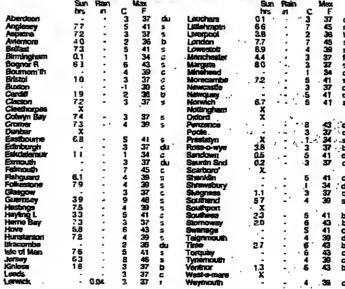
☐ London, SE England, E Angila, Central S England, E Midtands: bright spells, meinly dry, isolated fog. Wind NE mainly light. Cold. Max 5C (41P).

LE England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: cloudy, marriy dry. Wind NE light. Cold. Max 3C (37F).

inght spells. Mostly dry. Fog patches. Wind NE light. Cold Max 6C (43F).

Aberdeen, Central Hightands, Moray Firth. NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: cloudy, scattered steet or snow. Wind NE mainly light. Cold. Max 4C (39F). SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland: bright spells. Mainly dry. Wind NE light. Cold. Max 5C (41F). Outlook for weekend: mostly dry but light rain in west on Sunday.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



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